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Commons building on hold

By Andrea Gissing
Editor-in-Chief

President Ronald D. Liebowitz will announce this week key changes to the approach the administration will take towards development of commons infrastructure. Liebowitz's plan calls for postponing the renovation of Proctor Dining Hall in favor of building more senior housing.

Liebowitz is quick to note, however, that current students should not expect to see new senior housing in their time at the College. While reluctant to attach a timeline to the new development plan, he does not foresee that any new buildings would be completed before 2010. "For now, we're going to complete Atwater," said Liebowitz, "then we will move on to senior housing."

Through his talks with students, Liebowitz found that the general concern students had with the commons system was the inequalities in housing. While students liked their commons those not in Ross or Atwater commented on inequality in housing. "To them, almost unanimously, agreed that if senior housing was equalized, virtually all of the desire to leave the commons would lessen," said Liebowitz.

"We really haven't had a comprehensive plan out in the community," said Liebowitz about the course of commons system development. When the commons system was implemented in 1998 each of the separate commons came up with mini-plans, with general goals as to what they eventually would look like. The assumption was that they would develop the commons one by one, without a firm plan beyond Atwater. Now, Liebowitz plans to reprioritize the development, first by putting residence halls before dining halls and letting the time frame of development be dictated by finances. "If money were no object, all of the commons would be developed at once," he said.

Raising the quality of senior housing in all commons Liebowitz hopes will encourage se-

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SGA approves security cameras

Sixiao Huo

The SGA has passed a bill that calls for the installation of security cameras by coat racks outside of Proctor for a four-month trial period.

By Laura Budzyna
Staff Writer

On Jan. 16, the Student Government Association (SGA) Senate voted 8-7 in favor of the installation of security cameras outside the dining halls. The bill was formulated and passed in response to the recent rise in theft on campus.

The bill, which was written by Junior Senator Marcus Hughes '06, proposes installing cameras near backpack drop-off points outside of dining halls. These cameras would be tape-feed, not live, and students would be able to review these tapes at Public Safety in the case of a theft.

The Senate agreed to start a four-month trial period in Proctor dining hall to test the effectiveness of the approved camera system with a maximum of three cameras. After the trial period, the Commons Administration, Treasurer's Office, Public Safety and possibly a student subcommittee will decide whether to continue the use of the cameras.

The SGA hopes that the bill will address what SGA President Andrew Jacobi '05 calls "a rash of theft" that broke out on campus in October 2004. According to Public Safety reports, there was a marked increase in the number of stolen bikes, backpacks and other belongings during the fall semester, as well as several reports of dorm room intruders and the incident of a student being threatened at knifepoint.

Since the fall, the SGA has been discussing ways to address this recent upsurge in campus crime, with particular concern for preventing future crimes and restoring a feeling of security to the College. The SGA conducted a cursory dining hall survey on campus safety in November and then sent out a more comprehensive e-mail survey in December. The survey questions included whether or not students felt safe at the College, whether they had personally experienced theft and what measures they would be comfortable taking to prevent future crime on campus.

According to the SGA results, the majority of students who responded to the survey agreed that the installation of security cameras outside dining halls would decrease the instances of theft, especially since the dining halls were shown in the survey to be the most common locations for theft of personal belongings. However, the majority of students did not approve of the same cameras screening campus bike racks.

According to Jacobi, many students against the cameras were nervous about how these security devices would change the atmosphere on campus and particularly that cameras would be an eyesore and create an unnecessary element of fear.

Wonnacott Commons Senator Eli Berman '06, who voted against the Security Bill, argued,

See Security, page 5

THE IRON CHEF

Sixiao Huo

Busily chopping and grating in Ross Dining Hall, Middlebury students brought culinary competition to new heights in the College's own version of the popular "Iron Chef" series.

Ross intrusion renews concerns

By Katie Flagg
News Editor

On Sunday morning at 4:40 a.m., a resident in Milliken Hall reported that an unidentified male entered her room. The intruder left after the student told him to leave. The Department of Public Safety, in a community-wide safety alert issued by e-mail, described the suspect as a white male, student age, approximately 5'7" to 5'10". The suspect is also described as having wavy hair to the ears and a medium build.

The e-mail — one of several reports of the same nature issued this year to the College community — followed Public Safety procedure. "If the person has not been identified and is still at large, it is our responsibility to alert the community," said Melody Perkins, assistant director of administration at the Department of Public Safety.

The Milliken Hall incident is the third Ross Commons intrusion this academic year. Documented intrusions have been limited to Ross Commons buildings this year, but a similar incident occurred during the Fall 2003 term in Gifford Hall, according to Perkins.

"We had a wonderful response from the community," she commented in regards to the Gifford case. This student response eventually aided in resolving the situation and apprehending the person responsible for the incident.

Though the Gifford Hall incident is, according to Perkins, in many ways similar to recent intrusions, another "wonderful response"

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MIDDBRIEFS

BY BEN SALKOWE AND KATIE FLAGG

Cups rejoice, students be warned

In a last-ditch effort to rescue the missing fleets of proctor cups (and their missing plateware cousins) Director of Dining Services Matthew Biette notified students last week via e-mail that "The DRS [Dish Recovery System] is dead." Since it's introduction last year, the system had been intended to encourage the return of long-lost dishware, by placing dish recovery buckets in dorms and popular student areas. In its place will be a new martial law where no dining-ware may leave the confines of the dining halls, and students with cups and other dining utensils outside of dining halls will be fined.

"At its inception, the DRS was designed by the SGA to help get what few dishes were brought from the dining rooms back. At the very least, the DRS gave permission for all china to be taken from the dining rooms," wrote Biette."The once a week pick up system was not enough for the room service mentality the program took on."

While Proctor cups rejoice at the news, students may find new hassles. "As of Feb. 6, the day we will re-open for the second semester, dishes will no longer be allowed out of the dining rooms. In the cases where you may need to take a meal to a seminar in Ross or choose to use the Woodstove lounge or head to the patio, you will be required to sign out and sign back in," wrote Biette. Dining services is planning to hire students to monitor the doors of the dining halls, a move it had earlier sought to avoid due to cost concerns. Now, however, dining services has already seen its budget largely depleted by costs of replacing dishware.

In addition to the news on the DRS, Biette also announced that he anticipated the new Atwater Dining hall to open in time for the second semester, on Feb. 6. "Construction is winding up and the appropriate state inspectors are conducting reviews," wrote Biette. The opening has been delayed multiple times, originally scheduled for completion in September.

Professor's film short-listed for Oscar

The documentary, *Howard Zinn: You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train* by Deborah Ellis, visiting assistant professor of film and media culture, and Denis Mueller, was short-listed for an Oscar nomination in the "Documentary Feature" category. Ellis's documentary is an insight to the life and times of Howard Zinn, a historian and political activist who was the best-selling author of *A People's History of the United States.*

The documentary is narrated by Matt Damon and was the recipient of the Audience Award for Best Documentary Film at the Provincetown International Film Festival, as well as the John Michael Memorial Award at the 2004 Big Muddy Film Festival. The film features music by Billy Bragg, Woody Guthrie and Eddie Vedder.

The film was one of twelve on a short-list for nomination, including *Born into Brothels*, *Super Size Me* and *Resurrection*. Tuesday's announcement of the official nominations for the seventy-seventh academy awards did not include Ellis's documentary among the final five films selected for nomination.

Yearbooks free to all graduating seniors

The Finance Committee recently voted to increase the student activities fee by 10 dollars per student. With the extra capital generated by this increase, the College will now be distributing yearbooks free of charge to all graduating seniors. This policy will be effective immediately, with plans to continue distributing free yearbooks tio continue indefinitely.

Additionally, last year's annual was distributed earlier this month. Approximately 600 were produced and distributed, with most recipients being seniors who graduated in February or May of 2004. Next year's yearbook will likely be released in late September or early October 2005.

Febs discuss plans for revised graduation ceremonies

By Andrea Gissing
Editor-in-Cheif

The time for the mid-year graduation is fast approaching. Over a hundred students are preparing to end their Middlebury careers and move off into the world beyond. However, as they figure out how best to secure their mortarboards so it does not fall off during the Jan. 29 ski-down, there are a group of February graduating students — "Febs" — who have been working with the administration to figure out how to make "Feb Celebration" a commencement and not just a celebration.

The main differences between the current Feb celebration and the spring commencement are that those who gradate after the Winter Term do not receive their diploma, no honorary degrees are awarded and the students do not receive honors or awards at this time.

The main differences between the current Feb celebration and the spring commencement are that those who graduate after the Winter Term do not receive their diploma — they have to wait until the following spring — no honorary degrees are awarded and the students do not receive honors or awards at this time. At the time of graduation, "diplomas, generally, are only given to those whose grades and honors have already been calculated," said Secretary of the College and Professor of Political Science Eric Davis.

"I feel this is an important issue," said Abbie Beane '04.5, "because quite frankly, if these issues are not addressed more and more Febs may feel slighted in the future and like they receive unequal privileges compared to the September students. This may even create a divide between Febs and Regs or cause resentment towards Middlebury from the Febs."

It is a misconception, however that all of the students graduating after Winter Term are Febs. "Although the Febs start as a class," said Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson, "not all that graduate are Febs. Students usually graduate after seven, eight or nine semesters."

The students graduating in February have the option of participating in the commencement ceremony of either the class graduating the spring before them or after, and because most identify more with the class above them they choose to walk knowing that they would not receive a diploma. "When the class of 2004 left I felt as if all my friends were gone, or as if I no longer had a class, or both," said Beane. For those graduating in February, the option of coming to another class' graduation is not favorable.

Under the current academic calendar, grades are due at the end of Winter Term and students graduate the Saturday following, giving professors no time to read theses or calculate departmental honors. "In the spring," Davis explained, " there are four days between the day grades are due and commencement. In order for the Feb celebration to become a commencement, there needs to be more time. In addition, the change over with graduating students and incoming February students puts an increased pressure to have the celebration right after Winter Term ends.

"I think the Feb graduation tradition is a fun and original take on this formal ceremony, but I wish they would call it graduation rather than 'celebration.'"

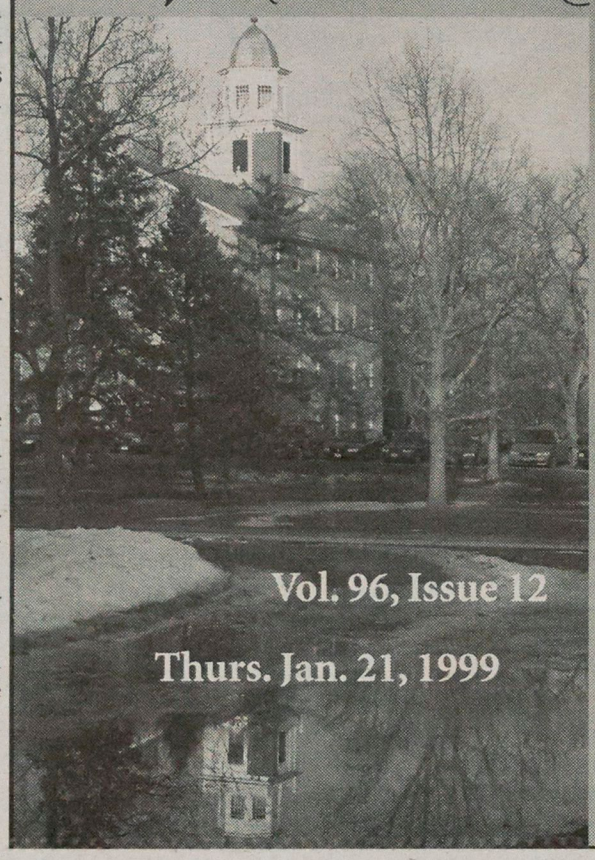
—Abbie Beane '04.5

One of the results of last year's Winter Term discussion was that in the future the break before spring term would be elongated, even up to two weeks in some years. In this case, time would be available for all the diploma requirements to be settled, however "time would be tight." However, the issue of senior work would still have to be determined. "Presently I don't think it's feasible to give out diplomas as long as theses deadlines are also at the end of Winter Term," Davis said. He explains that thesis deadlines would have to be at least two weeks earlier to allow professors to read them. If a change were to be made, it likely would not take effect until the fall of 2007.

Traditional events at the Feb graduation includes a reception at the President's house on Thursday evening, an event, with speakers, at the Center for the Arts on Friday — this year's guest speaker is James S. Okomboli Ong'ong'A '00.5 — and a ceremony held at Mead Chapel followed by a luncheon and then the ski-down at the Snow Bowl on Saturday.

"I think the Feb graduation tradition is a fun and original take on this formal ceremony," said Beane. "But I wish they would call it graduation rather than "celebration," award us diplomas and read honors. Honestly, these things seem simple enough to be remedied."

This Week in Middlebury History



"Sigma Epsilon petitions for reinstatement"

Sigma Epsilon, which has been on suspension for the last two years, will be petitioning Community Council for reinstatement as an organization at Middlebury College on Monday, January 18. Following the hearing Community Council will present a recommendation to President John McCardell, who will ultimately decide the fate of the social house.

Sigma Epsilon was placed on indefinite supsension in January 1997 in the wake of a series of violations of college policies. The house has an extended history of problems with substance abuse, illegal parties, no checking systems at parties and numerous alcohol overdoses. The most serious offense that led to the house's indefinite supsension in 1997 included the use of beer and possibly marijuana at a pledge sleep-over, an off campus initiation that resulted in a severe alcohol overdose by one pledge and extreme vandalism of the house. The house was told it could apply for reinstatement no earlier than January of 1999.

The remaining members of Sigma Epsilon submitted a proposal for reinstatement this past week which outlines how they have met the guidelines for reinstatement set forth by President John McCardell. Titled "A Renewed Mission Statement for Sigma Epsilon," the proposal admits to the problems of Sigma Epsilon in the past, and illustrates how the organization will be different if reinstated.

*** The above text was modified, using original language from its 1999 publication.***

A Day in the Life of a Midd-Kid

Nirvana Bhatia

Rallying for a group cheer, seventh graders from Keene Central School gathered in Pearsons Lounge on Saturday after exploring the Middlebury campus. The "Midd-kid for a Day" event, sponsored by Cook Commons, strove to educate schoolchildren from rural New England school districts. Students from Cook Commons spent the day with the visitors, promoting college education.

SGA approves first-year rush

IHC-endorsed bill seeks to expand social house program

By Megan O'Keefe
Managing Editor

On Jan.16, the Student Government Association Senate (SGA) approved a proposal that would allow first-year students to join a social house during their second semester at Middlebury College.

The bill, authored by Inter-House Council (IHC) President Kris Burfitt'05 and sponsored by SGA President Andrew Jacobi '05, was passed in a vote of 13 to two, with one abstention.

The subcommittee on social houses is considering the bill and is expected to make a recommendation to the Community Council on Feb.14. A vote in the Council will determine a recommendation to College President Ronald Liebowitz on the policy.

The "First Year Social House Membership Proposal" bill calls for inviting students to "rush any semester beginning with their second semester of their First Year" and seeks to allow student members to live in social houses beginning the "first semester of their sophomore year." Current College policy stipulates that students are ineligible to join a social house until the their sophomore year and may not live in a social house until Winter Term of that year.

A similar bill, authored by former SGA president Sam Rodriguez '04, was overwhelming defeated in the Senate last spring. Unlike the previous version, however, the reincarnated bill is endorsed by the IHC, which includes the presidents and vice-presidents of all five social houses. Said Burfitt, "I had heard interest in the possibility of freshmen being able to rush and pledge early in the semester, and it was an initiative I chose to pursue. I brought it up to the IHC, and after some discussion, they agreed to support me."

A leaflet distributed to SGA members by Burfitt, a member of Omega Alpha (Tavern), and IHC Vice President and Kappa Delta Rho (KDR) member Laura Lindel '04.5 entitled "The IHC Community's Internal Perspective" introduced the IHC's support of the bill, noting, "While there isn't necessarily something wrong with the Social House system as it stands, expanding the option of membership to a broader range of students would help not only the student body as a whole."

According to the bill's rationale, opening up rush and pledge to first-years would serve the student body by curbing drinking at off-campus parties or in unregulated dorm rooms. Additionally, the bill seeks to "enhance" social options available to first-years by offering them access to "unrealized" social house activities like "barbeques, trips, study groups, concerts, community service and intramural teams."

Senate debate over the bill raised concerns about possible alienation of Feb classes from second semester first-years who may be too occupied with rush and pledge to mix with the new students. Additionally, concerns were raised over whether the bill will simply allow the social houses to fill beds and raise more money through the collection of dues.

While Burfitt said that the bill focuses on social advantages, Jacobi noted that the bill will also help social houses meet their housing quotas. "Smaller houses like Tavern often have problems filling their large houses, and the penalties for failing to do so have become very harsh. Allowing sophomores to live there would remedy this problem," he said.

First-year Senator Jake Cohen voted in favor of the bill because it "will give those mature and dedicated freshman the opportunity to actually pledge." He noted, "One of the benefits for the social houses may be filling quotas, but rest assured, it is not the purpose of this bill. I like the idea of extending the offer of rushing to freshmen."

Cook Commons Senator Elizabeth Schaumberg '07 abstained from voting on the bill, explaining, "I hadn't had a chance to talk to my constituents about it." Schaumberg, who opposes the bill, said that "a significant amount of more communication should have been had" prior to a Senate vote. Schaumberg continued, "It would have been nice to have a greater dialogue. I don't think we considered all of the implications thoroughly."

Additionally, concerns have been raised about possible increase in alcohol consuption and abuse if first-years are permitted to join social houses. According to Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson, alcohol is a definite concern in relation to changes in the rush timeline. "First-year students are typically the ones at most risk for drinking," said Hanson, who questions what additional pressures may be added by social house membership.

Schaumberg also expresed concern about alcohol use. "They can say as much as they want to that rush and pledge are dry events, but the main concern is what happens with rush and pledge are over. First-years are still inexperienced in college life and are still getting acclimated to a different way of living," she observed.

In their presentation to the SGA, Burfitt and Lindel distributed an abbreviated list of rush timelines at other Colleges and Universities. While the list indicates that a vast majority of schools allow membership in "Greek-type" organizations before Middlebury College, the list also reveals that more than half of NESCAC schools do not have such organizations.

The presentation also included a list of perceived concerns with the bill and the "reality" perceived by the IHC that diminishes these worries.

The list of concerns includes the fact that "second semester freshmen haven't had enough time to acclimate to life on campus" and that the earlier pledge may "deny [first-years] the opportunity to form bonds within their class" and "detract from involvement in other student organizations."

The reality section emphasizes "valuable relationships developed through the rush in pledge process" and "the rush and pledge process is of a limited timespan so as to easily allow students to maintain existing friendships and build new ones.

Schaumberg, while noting that the information was well presented, expressed dissention. "I don't that after one semester [first-years] have had enough time to fully assimilate into College life."

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and IHC Advisor Karen Guttentag declined to comment on the initiative. Similarly, IHC Senator Michael Villarello, who is away for Winter Term was not present for the Senate vote, declined to comment.

Though the bill is controversial, Community Council members have hesitated to express an opinion on the proposal before hearing the recommendation of the social house subcommittee. Ann Hanson says she will have open-mind, noting, "It's hard to judge from conservation how people will vote."

— Additional reporting by Andrea Gissing

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY TOM DRESCHER

NOTTINGHAM — Reach into your pocket. You probably have some loose change floating around. Take it out, but don't look at it yet. Just estimate. What does it feel like? A few quarters and nickels? $0.63? $0.29? $1.05? You're probably not too far off. Now it's my turn. Let's see…I'd guess about $1.50, certainly no more than $2.00. Surprise: Despite the similar weight, I'm actually holding 6.40 British pounds sterling. According to bbc.co.uk, the current exchange rate for January 20, 2005, is £1 to $1.8676 — employ a bit of paper-and-pencil computation and the already-inflated value of my handful of currency balloons to an astonishing $11.95. This is the phenomenon known as "magic change."

To the best of my knowledge, the phrase "magic change" was coined by a friend of mine in Paris, and I first heard it used during a visit to France's vibrant capital city in October. On my first night of debauchery Paris-style I was introduced to the compulsory late-night ritual of purchasing and devouring a crepe at 2 a.m. As I waited to order my own £3.50 banana-and-Nutella-smothered snack, a fellow Midd-kid in line ahead of me announced boisterously that she would be paying with "magic change." I thought about this for a moment, checked my empty wallet, withdrew a handful of Euro change from my pocket, and realized that I too would be making this exchange exclusively with coins.

Ask your grandparents, and they'll rattle off a list of items they could buy with a dime when they were your age. It's true: pennies, nickels and dimes have become nearly obsolete in recent years. At home, when I break a $10 or $20 bill, I toss the change in my pocket temporarily, and it usually ends up scattered around my room in drawers or under furniture. Every few weeks I make an effort to remedy this change dispersion, and I can usually collect enough to feed the laundry machines and clean my clothes. In England, two weeks of hoarded change is enough to buy a new wardrobe.

Adjusting to the idea of magic change can be a challenge for Americans. It's often very deceiving: on one occasion, I fed my £20 note into an Underground ticket machine at St. John's Wood Station in London and was left with a Day Travelcard, valued at £4.30, a hefty handful of £1 coins and the misleading feeling that I'd just spent almost $40. On the other hand, paying with coins was, at least in my American mind, not really paying at all, and early in the semester I could toss loose change to the bartender at my residence hall pub all night with nary a thought for my finances.

Increasingly unfavorable exchange rates in recent months have made British and European coinage even more magical. I've had to constantly remind myself, for the sake of my poor, emaciated bank account, not to recklessly discard those miniature metallic portraits of Her Majesty the Queen. Dealing with magic change has become easier of late, and I have come to understand and admire the convenience factor of utilizing change for significant transactions, but I admit I'm looking forward to getting reacquainted with President Washington's profile and filling my wallet with crisp paper money and my pocket with worthless change.

Environmental Council meets with Liebowitz

By Katie Flagg
News Editor

The Environmental Council met with Ronald Liebowitz on Monday, January 17, in what was Liebowitz's first meeting with the Council as College president.

The Council came bearing gifts; Liebowitz left with a reusuable travel mug and cutlery, personalized notebooks made fully from recycled fibers from the College's printing center, a canvas tote bag and a compact fluorescent light bulb. The Council also purchased a year's supply of "Cow Power" for the President's House. This locally-derived energy will be produced by the Blue Spruce Farm in Bridport, the first farm-based methane gas project to generate electricity for the main power grid.

"I really appreciate this memorable message and your leadership," Liebowitz told the group at the onset of the meeting.

"The meeting went well," said Clare O'Reilly '05, ex officio for the Environmental Council. "I think everyone thought it was a positive meeting."

The Environmental Council presented its current priorities to Liebowitz, speaking to the importance of a pedestrian campus, environmental purchasing, land stewardship policies and the continuation of the environmental grants program.

"President Liebowitz expressed an interest in funding the environmental grants program through the President's office," said O'Reilly.

In another memorable gesture, the Environment Council also arranged for the meeting to be carbon neutral — that is, the Council estimated the amount of energy required to conduct the meeting and then purchased a carbon dioxide offset. The investment will be made in a renewable energy wind project in South Dakota that is run by the Rosebud Sioux tribe.

This carbon neutral meeting may be a harbinger of what lies ahead for the Council and for the College. The Director of Environmental Affairs and the Chair of the Environmental Council, Nan Jenks-Jay, pushed the importance of carbon reduction, noting that carbon reduction should play an important role in the strategic planning process now underway.

"[Liebowitz] indicated that the task force will not impact the ongoing work of the Environmental Council," said Jenks-Jay. "We will work in consort with each other and continue our own agenda rather than put things on hold while the task forces are meeting. This was reassuring to hear."

While, in O'Reilly's words, the president does not have a "concrete plan" for the environment, the meeting was generally considered a success. (Jenks-Jay confirmed that Liebowitz is "still in the developing state of his future agenda at this point.")

"President Liebowitz requested that he meet with the Environmental Council on a regular basis so a close and active advisory role to the President is developed," said Jenks-Jay. "This regular contact has not occurred in the past."

Liebowitz, like members of the Council, expressed satisfaction with the meeting in a press release put out by the Environmental Affairs office.

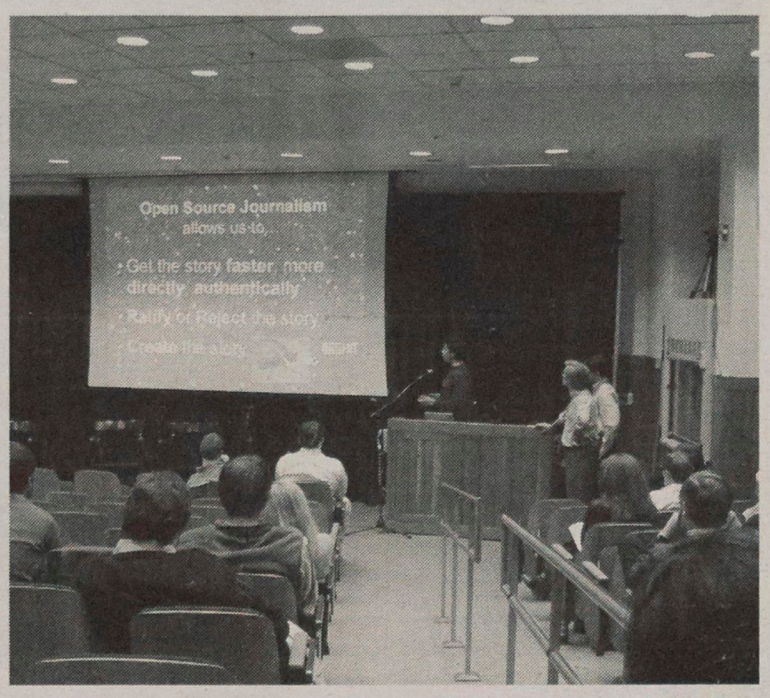
"I look forward to a close working relationship with the Environmental Council and will depend on this body for insight and guidance in setting our strategic long-term vision," Liebowitz said. "It is exceptional to have such broad-based environmental leadership serving the President's office and I intend to tap it frequently."

Conference explores importance of internet

By Andrea M. LaRocca
Associate Editor

On Jan. 22, Middlebury College hosted the Digital Bridges 2005 conference, which was the culmination of an annually taught January term class called Digital Bridges, which Michael Clauden, David K. Smith professor of applied economics, pioneered in January 2000. Both the class and the conference explore what it means to live in an increasingly digital world.

This year's conference, which in the past spanned two days, consisted of five panels, each of which explored a current issue in context of the theme, "Where is the internet really making a difference and driving change?" Topics ranged from digital healthcare to telecommunication, and the conference concluded with a keynote panel that focused on "Reaction and Interaction: Changes in Mainstream Media."



Buck Sleeper
The keynote panel discussion of the DigitalBridges2005 focused on "Reaction and Interaction: Changes in Mainstream Media."

"I thought was made this year unique was hot tightly the five panels cohered around our central theme," said Clauden, the director of DigitalBridges2005. "There was a quite clear give and take between the panel and the audience, between the panel members and even within the audience itself that really resonated with the topics and with the people there."

The panel speakers, several of whom were Middlebury alumni or local residents, were industry professionals who regularly incorporate the internet into their business lives.

"The best part was that I got to meet people from different industries and get the full picture of what they are doing," Tina S. Dimitrova '05. "It helped me figure out what I want to do."

Although Clauden was responsible for attracting the panel speakers, each of the twelve students in Clauden's January term class were responsible for coordinating and facilitating a panel.

"This is the first year that the students presented before the panels, and that fundamentally altered the energy in the room for the better, said Clauden. "The students got the panels moving and had a fundamentally core role."

The students in Digital Bridges overwhelmingly agreed that the experience of leading a panel was very positive. "The presentation was one of the best parts," said Dimitrova. "I actually felt like a professional because I was a specialist in my area for the day."

The students conduct original research on an internet-related topic throughout January term and then distill the information down to the essential points for their presentations, which Clauden called "an impressive collaborative process."

Although the course is listed as an Economics class, Clauden and the students emphasized that because of the class' flexible, interdisciplinary aspect, it is not just for Economics majors. According to the Winter Term course catalog, "This is not a course for techies or economists only, but they are certainly welcome. The only prerequisite is that you come to the course ready for taking ownership of a collaborative learning and teaching process."

"The class isn't just for Econ majors at all," said Dustin Dolginow '05.5. "It would have been awesome to have a pre-med of a bio major to add their perspective to the healthcare panel, for instance."

The inherent indisciplinary aspect of the internet as a topic was reflected in the various topics that the panel addressed to the professions of the speakers present.

"This class is what a liberal arts education should be because it draws on a lot of different disciplines and brings them together so that you have a new outlook on something," said Dolginow. "It's J-term at its best."

Climate Change

Ed Francis
Speaking to a packed house, a presenter heleped kick off the Global Climate Change Forum on Tuesday. Cardell Bicentennial Hall.

Future commons plan to alter

Continued from page 1

niors to remain on campus. "I believe seniors have an incredible role to play on campus," he said. As well, once the commons have equitable senior housing built, the periphery houses would revert back to places for faculty — young faculty especially — to live, enabling them to be closer to the college community.

"I am committed fully to the commons system. I believe in the commons system," Liebowitz said. Instead of large-scale building projects though, for the next few years the administration will continue to develop programming which enriches the system even before the infrastructure is completed. As he had said at the beginning of the year, Liebowitz's goal is to focus on the human aspect of the College and not just on the building aspect. "I've heard criticism from my faculty colleagues and students about the emphasis on housing."

Discussions on this subject began in the fall semester, brought up especially at the fall Trustee meeting. Those in the commons system who have been consulted seem to be favorable to the change in emphasis. "I think my understanding is that most of us are very comfortable on putting the priority on housing and not dining halls," said David Edleson, dean of Cook Commons. "Commons need gathering spaces, whether that needs to be a dining hall per se needs to be a question."

Edleson emphasizes that it is important people not equate the commons with buildings. "The commons system is a way of organizing residential life. Buildings are secondary." The dorms, he said, would have been needed and built, regardless of the commons system.

Liebowitz plans to announce these changes to the plan in an e-mail memorandum to the College community sometime this week.

Public safety investigates offense

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from Middlebury students is less obvious on campus. Student reactions vary — while several expressed concern at the onset of the intrusions, others quickly discounted the incidents.

"After the first [incident] I locked my door, but I don't anymore," said sophomore and Ross Commons resident Sienna Chambers. Chambers continued, "I don't really pay attention to [the safety alert e-mails], to be honest."

While many students echo Chambers's sentiments, some going so far as to describe the e-mail alerts as "jokes," others feel that a lack of personal responsibility only heightens security problems on campus.

"I think the biggest issue in terms of campus security right now is student apathy," said J.S. Woodward '06. "Most students I've spoken to have not changed their behavior in any way

"It's been suggested by some that the dormitories go under 24-hour lockdown, which would require the use of access cards to enter at all hours."

—J.S. Woodward '06

— their doors remain unlocked at night and often during the day when they're out of the building. Many don't even bother to read the e-mails from Public Safety, deleting them as soon as they see that the sender is neither a professor nor personal friend."

Some students have argued that the e-mails are vague and unhelpful, providing few details regarding incidents on campus. According to the Department of Public Safety, though, the e-mail alerts have been as thorough as the medium will permit.

"I think the biggest issue in terms of campus security right now is student apathy. Most students I've spoken to have not changed their behavior in any way."

—J.S. Woodward '06

As Dean of Ross Commons Janine Clookey pointed out, "When students report incidents, the reports they give are vague."

That said, the department only tells people "as much as they need to know to understand what occurred," Perkins said. While Public Safety "will provide general information on the nature of the incident," certain details cannot be released to the community at large. Details that the department feels could compromise the investigation or the privacy of victims.

While students on the whole are receiving relatively little information about the crimes, renewed discussions about security and safety are blossoming across campus. Prompted by frequent bicycle and backpack thefts, the Student Government Association (SGA) began exploring options like placing security cameras outside dining halls and on bicycle racks.

The SGA is not alone in exploring security measures. "A number of administrators have met about security measures on campus," according to Woodward.

"It's been suggested by some that the dormitories go under 24-hour lockdown, which would require the use of access cards to enter at all hours," he continued. "However, the student body is generally against such action and consequently, the administration has not made such a move as the problems of intrusion have yet to escalate too terribly."

Clookey, Perkins and many Middlebury students are pointing to the Milliken incident as an indication that students must begin to take increased personal responsibility in protecting themselves.

"I think that each individual student is responsible for preventing harm to himself and, secondarily, to the community," Clookey said.

The Milliken intrusion follows two previous and striking similar incidents in Ross Commons. On Nov. 8 and 14, two residents reported incidents of unlawful trespassing.

On Nov. 19, the Department of Public Safety responded by implementing several new security measures targeted specifically at Ross Commons. In addition to increasing patrols in the Ross dorms, Public Safety locked the majority of the doors in the Ross Commons complex.

But recently, believing the intrusions to have stopped, Clookey opened a handful of doors in the Commons buildings.

"I understand about security," she said, "but I also understand about the cold." Concerned about students locked out in inclement winter weather, she unlocked three of the doors in the Commons complex just a few weeks ago.

Public Safety is conducting an ongoing investigation into the Ross Commons trespassing incidents. Last weekend's Milliken intrusion case remains open and under investigation.

Security cameras new on menu

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Everything about the bill is ambiguous. Yes, security cameras, but where? How many? For how long? Who will decide after the trial period is over?"

Berman also expressed his concern about the students' reaction to the change of atmosphere. "I think it's obvious that Middlebury students meant that cameras would, in fact, negatively affect the atmosphere of the college," he said of the email survey results.

Other members saw no reason not to institute such safety procedures, if it meant the security of Middlebury students and their belongings. First-year senator Fil Marinkovic '08, a sponsor of the bill, argued that "the number [of thefts] that still crop up on a weekly basis is unacceptable."

"If the cameras chosen are of an adequately small size and are placed so that they don't impose on the atmosphere of the dining halls, then I feel they would only add to the atmosphere of safety Middlebury already has," Marinkovic said. "Furthermore, the survey provided evidence that the majority of students would in fact support their installation, and felt that they would deter thefts."

Ross Commons senator Rishabh Kashyap '08, another sponsor of the bill, sought to reassure students of the good intentions of this project. "To me, by passing this bill the SGA has not approved the installation of security cameras," he said. "They have started a committee to explore a way to keep the campus safe as well as keep the students happy. That is why the cameras are being tried out; if there is a huge dissatisfaction with them and we don't see improvements in safety, we will uninstall the cameras."

Jacobi noted that the Community Council has to approve a bill before taking it to the administration and actually implementing it. Therefore, this SGA decision does not mean that there will definitely be security cameras up outside all the dining halls; it simply means that the SGA will lobby for it.

Jacobi said that in addition to implementing security cameras, the SGA will be working with CRA's and RA's to educate the student body on various safety issues.

public safety log

JANURARY, 18 2004 TO JANUARY 23, 2004

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
1/18/05	10:35 a.m.	Theft	Service	Center for the Arts	Case Closed
1/19/05	Unknown	Theft	Backpack	Ross	Property Recovered
1/19/05	6:37 p.m.	Theft	Backpack	FIC	No Suspects
1/19/05	12:00 a.m.	Theft	Backpack	FIC	No Suspects
1/19/05	6:25 p.m.	Theft	Bike	Athletics Complex	Open
1/20/05	12:30 a.m.	Theft	Jacket	Prescott (ADP)	Open
1/20/05	1:45 a.m.	Collision	Hit and Run	Porter Field Road	Referred to Commons Dean
1/20/05	4:15 p.m.	Theft	Wallet	Ross	No Suspects
1/22/05	10:15 a.m.	Collision	Hit and Run	Route 125	No Suspects
1/22/05	1:51 a.m.	Vandalism	Bike Rack	Outside	Referred to Commons Dean
1/23/05	4:40 a.m.	Unlawful Trespass		Milliken	Open
1/23/05	1:20 a.m.	Vandalism	Lights/Wall	Milliken	No Suspects
1/23/05	2:38 a.m.	Vandalism	Exit Sign	LaForce	No Suspects

ALCOHOL: There were nine incidents of alcohol possession by minors this week. All offenses were reported to Commons Deans. These offenses occurred in Coffrin, Fletcher, Palmer (ZOO), Hepburn, Battell and Forest.

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY ANDREA GISSING

Harvard's Summers apologizes for remarks

President of Harvard University, Lawrence H. Summers, issued a personal apology last Thursday after the remarks he made suggesting that women may be innately less able to succeed in the maths and sciences. The apology, given to a group of distinguished women professors who are members of the Standing Committee on Women, coincided with his efforts to convince Harvard faculty of his commitment to diversity.

Summers requested Thursday's meeting with the group after it reproached him in a letter on Tuesday. The letter said that the remarks he made to a Jan. 14 academic conference "did not serve our institution well." These remarks discussed how few married with children are willing to make the time and energy commitment necessary to hold top positions on university math and engineering faculties, and also that biological differences between men and women could explain differences in why women do not succeed in the sciences as often as men. Previous to his Thursday apology, Summers defended his statements, saying his intention was not to offend, but instead to promote dialogue.

Before the Thursday meeting Summers received another letter endorsing the standing committee's reproachful letter signed by over 100 of the 600 professors on Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Summers' spokeswoman, Lucie McNeil, said that the president thought it was a good meeting and that following the apology those present moved on to discuss a variety of steps the university can take to address diversity issues. Additionally, Summers is reported to be exploring ways of offering concrete concessions to women, such as establishing guarantees of new hiring, however this has not been confirmed.

Source: *The New York Times*

Princeton puts cap on inflation

Princeton University students will now have to work harder than ever to earn an A. Each department can now give A's to no more than 35 percent of its students each semester.

The crackdown on high grades is part of a national battle against grade inflation. Princeton's cap is the result of a move that students protested last year, but the university is not the only institution taking steps to control high marks. This year Harvard University will limit the number of students who can graduate with honors — in 2001 91 percent of seniors graduated with some kind of honors. Northwestern University has set up a committee to study grade inflation at its journalism school.

Princeton officials plan to mail out letters to about 3,000 graduate schools and employers to inform them of the new grading standards. This they hope will relieve students' fears about losing places to students at other schools where the grades being distributed are not been controlled. However, the level of competition between students is expected to increase sharply due to this change, especially in upper-level classes where there are fewer students.

Source: *The Boston Globe*

localnews

6
ORB WEAVER
HATE CRIME BRINGS LOCALS TOGETHER IN FUNDRAISING EFFORT

7
BACK TO IRAQ
VERMONT SENDS ITS SECOND ROUND OF TROOOPS INTO BATTLE

Flatbread serves up a fundraiser

Community convenes for a worthy cause

By Elizabeth Siegel
Staff Writer

The act of vandalism which destroyed a year's worth of cheese production at Monkton, Vt.'s Orb Weaver farm last November was followed a month later by a physical attack against the farm's owners Marjorie Susman and Marion Pollack. The pair, a lesbian couple who have grown produce in Vermont for 24 years, have tried to leave the memory of what many are calling a hate crime behind. The Middlebury community, however, has not forgotten the financial and emotional blow suffered by Susman and Pollack.

"After we heard about the destruction of 274 wheels of cheese," explained Jen Moffroid of Middlebury's pizza company and restaurant American Flatbread, "we were shocked and dismayed and wanted to show our support in a public way."

"We had heard there were so many others who wanted to help," continued Moffroid. But the distraught farming community "didn't quite know how to organize everyone. We said we were happy to play the role of organizer."

And so, on Friday, Jan. 21, from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., American Flatbread provided what Moffroid described as "the vehicle" for an outpouring of support from Middlebury's community to Orb Weaver farm. For every Flatbread sold that night, $4 was donated to Susman and Pollack. The proceeds from those sales, along with additional donations made at the restaurant that evening, are estimated at $1,000.

"The event was very well attended," said Moffroid of the fundraiser, which she unequivocally deemed a "success."

Ari Joseph

Although Susman and Pollack did not attend the event, there was a wonderful show of support for the couple.

"Being farmers you have to be optimists — We're going to put all of this behind us. We have to."
—Marjorie Susman

"The benefit prompted about 20 e-mails from community members asking how they can help," added Moffroid. At her behest, "people will [also] be sending checks directly" to the farm.

While Susman and Pollack did not attend Friday's event — "It would have been too difficult, too overwhelming," explained Susman — they have been touched by the community's support during these difficult times.

"It's been total extremes," said Susman of the past few months. "From the sheer terror of being attacked to the sheer love we've been feeling" from the community.

And, with the community's support firmly behind them, Susman reports that she and Pollack are maintaining a positive outlook for the new year. "We were very glad to see 2005 happen," she said.

"Being farmers you have to be optimists — We're going to put all of this behind us. We have to."

VERMONT by the numbers

0: The number of billboards found in Vermont, since they are outlawed in the state.

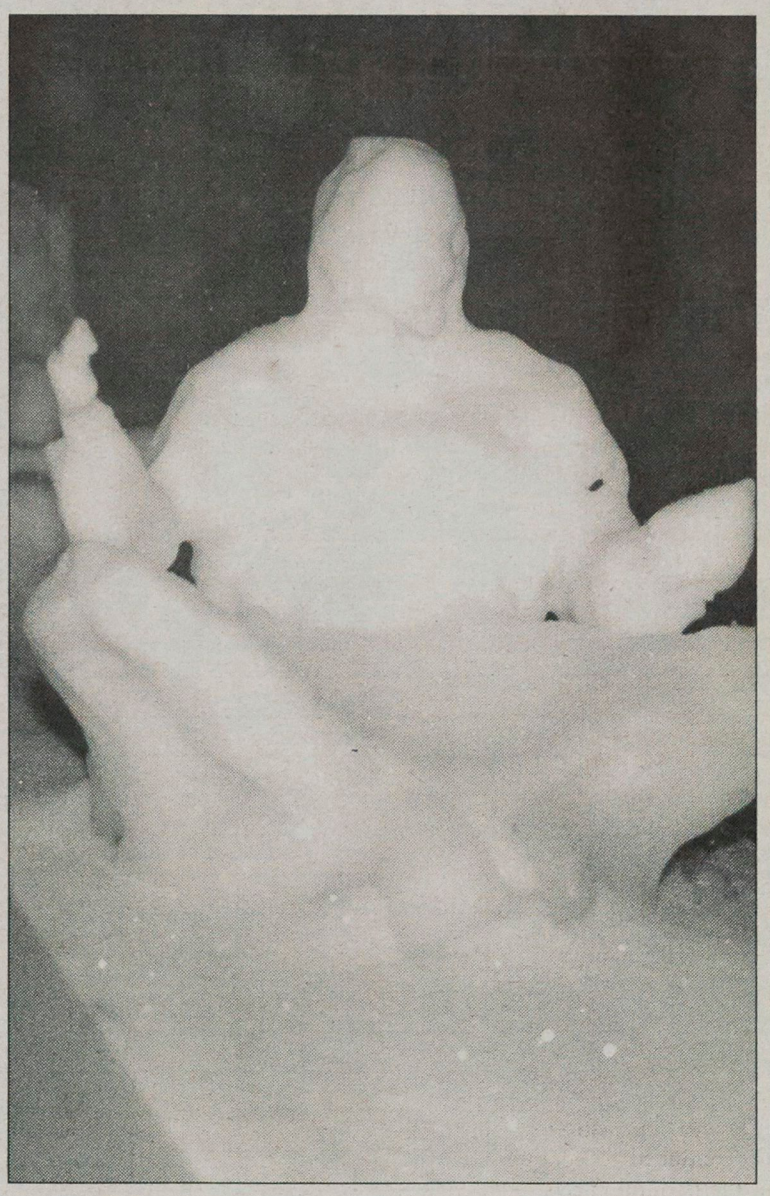
3: The number of Vermont state rocks, which include granite, marble and slate.

64: Record high temperature recorded in Vermont in January.

-30: Record low temperature recorded in Vermont in January.

Sources: butlerwebs.com, weather.com

Snow Sculpting



Ari Joseph

Channeling their love of frigid cold into creative formations, students built snow sculptures outside the new library.

Vt. deploys next round of troops

By Sarah Shaikh
Staff Writer

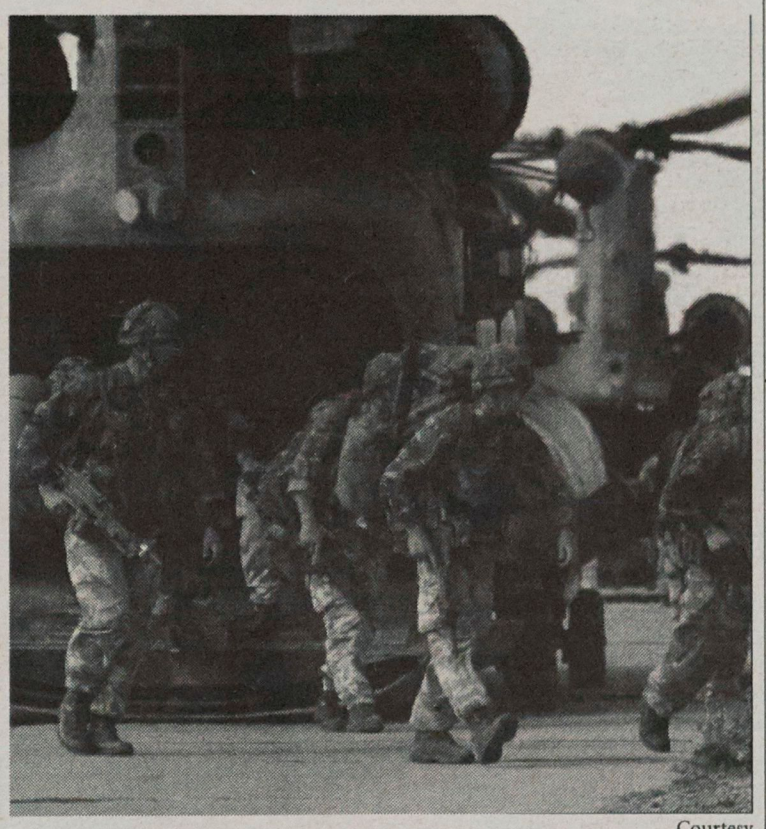
Most of the general American public seems extremely removed from the ongoing war in Iraq. The sense of urgency to "protect our troops" and "not shed blood for oil" seem like cries from the past and now the reminisce of these slogans can be seen covered in snow on the bumpers of cars driving up and down Rt. 7. Even President George W. Bush, in his inauguration speech last Thursday, Jan. 20, 2005, who encouraged the young American population to "believe the evidence of your eyes. You have seen duty and allegiance in the determined faces of our soldiers. You have seen that life is fragile, and evil is real, and courage triumphs. Make the choice to serve in a cause larger than your wants, larger than yourself — and in your days you will add not just to the wealth of our country, but to its character." Yet he forgot to mention the continued efforts of American troops who are still fighting a seemingly endless battle in Iraq.

Here in Vermont, however, it is hard to forget that we are fighting a war across the Atlantic, especially after Wednesday's deployment of another 330 soldiers and 45 senior officers. Of the 330 Vermont National Guards deployed to Iraq last Wednesday, all of the soldiers are men, the youngest age 18. Among them there are 160 officers who are married and 190 who have children who will be anxiously waiting for them at home. There are 18 college students in the group — 14 of whom go to Norwich University.

On Wednesday morning, 3100 family and friends gathered at the pavilion in the Champlain Valley Exposition to bid the soldiers adieu. The soldiers stood in their ranks while tear-filled family members gave goodbye hugs. The ceremony commenced at 8:00 a.m. and the soldiers and their families were provided words of encouragement and support from many local Vermont leaders. Governor Jim Douglas '72 was one of many to relay a message to the departing soldiers — "I must admit it's never easy, perhaps impossible, to find the perfect words to describe our state's gratitude for your service and the heartfelt commitment that we have to you and your families. I've said at previous send-offs that all of Vermont will stand with you and your comrades. I've said before that we're all proud that you'll bring Vermont's virtues and values to a place in the world that needs them now more than ever."

The soldiers were also addressed by Maj. Gen. Martha Rainville, the Vermont National Guard adjutant general who reconfirmed the necessity of this mission. "You're going to a place that needs your talents. You're going to a country, a nation of people just like us, who need a chance at democracy."

There is much speculation that this deployment will be one of the last largest scale deployments seen by the state of Vermont. The 330 soldiers along with the 45 commanding officers will spend five months at a training facility in Camp Shelby, Miss. They will then join a Pennsylvanian combat brigade on a yearlong tour in Iraq. The mission, as reported by the *Burlington Free Press*, is said to consist of security, patrolling, and conceivably combat.



Courtesy

As family members and friends gather to bid farewell to their loved ones, the Vt. troops receive encouragement and inspiration from state officials.

It may be hard for some to imagine being one of the 18 Vermont college students who have been deployed or to face the reality praying that your loved one will return safely home. However, to some Middlebury students this feeling of concern is a reality. Tommy Heitkamp '06.5, originally from Orwell, Vt., is one of these many people hoping a friend will return safely. One of his friends and track teammates from Fair Haven Union High School, a war veteran at the age of 18, is returning to Iraq for his second yearlong tour.

"I worry about him. He is in a situation where he is in a lot of danger, though sometimes he would like to think that he is going into a safe and secure place. He is trained to go into a situation of that sort and being of a mind that is not emotional. He has been trained to do his job and he is going to do it no matter what," said Heitkamp. "It's hard for myself to look at his situation and really feel comfortable with it because it is something so unfamiliar to me. It is also difficult for those of us who are staying here to not feel a sense of urgency, it feels scary to sit here and think of the danger that he is about to face. He has a more positive mindset then I would have expected."

Tire burning sparks local dissent

By Polly Johnson
Local News Editor

On Jan. 11, at the Universalist Unitarian Church on Cross St. in Middlebury, the citizens' groups Moms for Safe Milk and People for Less Pollution convened at a community meeting to discuss the impending decision of the paper company, International Paper, to burn tire-derived fuel at their Ticonderoga plant in New York.

The meeting was well-attended by parents, local physicians, health experts and concerned citizens worried about the effects that the burning would have on the people and land of Vermont.

International Paper, a paper mill that describes itself on its Web site as a "diversified, global company with manufacturing operations in the western hemisphere, Europe, Asia and Africa," has proposed replacing much of their current fuel source with fuel created from shredded tires. This proposal has health experts and physicians as well as local citizens extremely concerned about the detrimental health effects that would ensue. The most compelling issue is the effect of the toxic pollutants on the health of children.

People for Less Pollution is an Addison County citizen's group that has continued to educate citizens on the harmful effects of the pollutants from International Paper, while Moms for Safe Milk works to keep children safe from harmful toxins and pollutants.

Tensions between Vermonters and the International Paper plant in Ticonderoga have long been high due to conflicting environmental opinions and ideas about what is safe for the community. Vermonters have claimed to see the negative effects from the mill, which have included pollution blown in by westerly winds, and pollution dumped into the lakes shared by New York and Vermont, most notably Lake Champlain. Tire burning has the potential to emit such toxic metals as mercury, lead, chromium, cadmium and arsenic, as well as carcinogenic dioxin. These chemicals have been linked to birth defects and a wide variety of human illnesses.

Doctors in attendance on Jan. 11 included Dr. Pierre Angier, a physician from South Burlington, and Dr. Jack Mayer, a pediatrician from Middlebury. Other notable attendees included Jeff Wennberg, the commissioner of Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation, Joanna Colwell, of Moms for Safe Milk, Kevin Leske, the assistant to the State Attorney General, State Representatives David Sharpe, Steve Maier and Willem Jewett and poet and Associate Professor of English Gary Margolis.

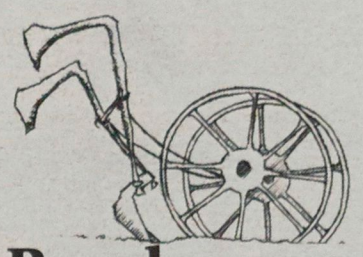
Courtesy

International Paper hopes to burn thousands of tires to fuel their plant.

Speaking of the possible effects of toxins on children's health, Mayer said, "Children are uniquely susceptible to the toxic effects of the pollutants that will be released by International Paper Company should they be allowed to burn tire derived fuel. These organic chemicals and heavy metals are toxins with known effects on learning and behavior in children."

The conflicting interests date back to 1925, when the Ticonderoga plant was officially opened as a paper mill. In the 1970s, lawsuits erupted as citizens became increasingly aware of the dangerous effects of the pollutants emanating from the plant and making their way into Lake Champlain and the air. In 1996, the plant test burned tires without informing Vermont, and finally in 2003, International Paper formally applied for a permit to test burn tires.

With high hopes for their efforts, Colwell of Moms for Safe Milk remarked, "The very least International Paper should do is to install an Electrostatic Precipitator on the boiler that would burn tires, to ensure that our children are not exposed to more toxins. We're counting on Governor Douglas to protect our communities. Real family values means keeping our children safe from dangerous pollution."



Rural Banter

BY ERICA GOODMAN

Looking for solitude, a little peace and quiet? Simply travel through the town of Middlebury on a Friday evening. Other than the strings of white lights illuminating the storefront windows, the village has all of the characteristics of a deserted arctic community. At first glance, it appears that in this hamlet, Robert Putnam's words echo true — Americans have lost their social collectiveness. Instead of conversing with their neighbors, they are choosing isolation, and going "bowling alone." With the onset of icy weather and long, dark evenings, it seems as though Middlebury residents have disappeared into hibernation.

However, I realized after spending a Friday evening in the high school gymnasium that the Middlebury townspeople have not flown south for the winter. Sitting on the polyurethane bleachers for a basketball game brought back my own memories of the town pride surrounding high school athletics in a rural community.

In a small town, sports are one of the main sources of entertainment and amusement — there is little alternative. From late November until mid-February, the town converges around the nets on the wooden court. People come from all parts of the town to create a colorful crowd that paints a picture of the community. Parents unfold their stadium seat cushions and attempt to make themselves comfortable on the bleachers as they cheer for their children. Whether members of a sports team or not, students flock to the gymnasium to support their friends. Girls too young to drive sit in the front row, their glossy lips exchanging gossip juicier than their bubble gum. A group of young boys pass a basketball in the corner, imitating their favorite players. There are the elderly men who have unofficially reserved seats at half court for every home game and who laugh, remembering the time when they too had the young legs to sprint down the court.

What brings these men and women together, the family and friends and fans of Middlebury, is pride. They are there for the team, and in doing so, they are there for their community. Win or lose, the players know that the town is always behind them. The fans come to chat with friends and family, they come for the love of the sport. The store windows of Main Street are filled with signs supporting the high school players who have grown up before their eyes. The crowd watches players enter as rookies, their knobby knees shaking as they await their chance on the court; they hold back tears when players leave as confident seniors.

Maybe Americans are bowling alone. But in Middlebury, and in many rural communities, pine lanes do not isolate individuals, wooden floors bring them together.

opinions

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Editorial

Will Cameras Provide Security?

It is refreshing to see a Student Government Association (SGA) pass a bill on issues like the rising number of theft on campus. The bill calls for the installation of security cameras outside of the dining halls in hopes that thefts of backpacks and jackets left by diners would decrease and the "normal" atmosphere of complete safety and security at Middlebury College would be restored.

How much of an affect will cameras have? The bill calls first for the installation of one camera outside of Proctor. After a four-month trial period, if the effectiveness of the system passes muster, then more cameras can be installed with a maximum of three. But remember that past drastic security measures have not always been the most effective. The dorm access system has not prevented miscreants from entering rooms — since its installation there have been multiple-intrusion reports. The installation of video cameras in very public places will be a drastic change from the Middlebury norm. Yes, there are already cameras installed on campus — one a live-feed camera outside of the health center to let 24-hour staff see midnight visitors, and the other in WRMC — but for people to have that reminder that something's wrong will likely be the only tangible affect.

Instead, the cameras probably are not the best solution. It might end up more a waste of money than a good idea. Starting February door checkers will reappear at dining hall entrances, providing a measure of monitoring. More importantly, cameras won't fix the issue at hand — students have little choice but to leave bags outside of the dining halls, providing easy access for would-be looters. The real solution is to allow students to have a safe place to put their bags, cubbyholes inside dining halls for example.

The fact is, anyone outside of Middlebury would look at the lifestyle here and think everyone is inviting theft. Few students lock their doors, most feel comfortable enough to leave computers and other valuables in the library. The SGA is doing its job to come up with a solution, but realistically there is only so much a camera can do. Maybe it's time for students to see Middlebury as the real world and not just an escape from. Instead of looking for outside agents to protect all from the harsh realities, take steps yourself.

First-Years, Come Sign On!

At the same meeting, the SGA also passed a bill that — if supported by the Community Council and then by President Liebowitz — would allow first-year students to rush social houses during their second semester. Currently, only students matriculating in February are allowed to do that. Supporters of the bill have many arguments as to why this bill should be put into action. Can anyone explain why the SGA putting their weight behind this Inter-house council (IHC) driven initiative?

First, supporters claim allowing first-years to rush would equal out differences between "Febs" and "Regs," allowing both to rush after they have spent the same amount of time at Middlebury. But at the same time it will cause an even greater divide between the two when Regs are too busy pledging to meet their new classmates. Additionally, it would disrupt the dorm community, introducing yet another social pressure at a time when first-years form friends.

Second, supporters highlight how the main exposure first-years have to the social houses is the large, open parties that are thrown. "Freshmen are largely unaware that the houses do so much more than host parties." If this is the case, than why is it all non-members associate social houses with partying? Maybe if the houses themselves took their minds off that aspect, others would see there's more to life as a brother than the "Animal House" ideal.

Third and most important, the bill supposedly cuts down on the amount of "dangerous dorm room and off-campus activities." Honestly, no one is naive enough to expect underage students won't drink once they've joined a social house. Supporters claim that pledge and rush are 100 percent dry, and while formal pledge events might be this way, it does not prevent copious amounts of alcohol from being served at informal events. As well, rush ends halfway through the semester — the "dry" period is over. In fact, the bill writers have the audacity to say that "under the status quo, first-years ... often 'pregame' before going out to these parties, due to their inability to get drinks at the houses." If by "inability" they mean easy access to the free-flowing keg, then their claims would be correct, however to present a bill with such blatant misrepresentations is an insult to anyone in a position to pass judgment.

To be fair, this bill does have some benefits — to the social houses — for instance first-years would increase the size of their pledge classes thus helping the houses fill beds. But for every one reason supporters give for why this bill should take effect, two or three counter arguments can be made. Perhaps instead of trying to work the system to their advantage, social houses should spend more effort on making membership appeal to the student body at large so when students become eligible to rush during their sophomore year, they decide that they want to.

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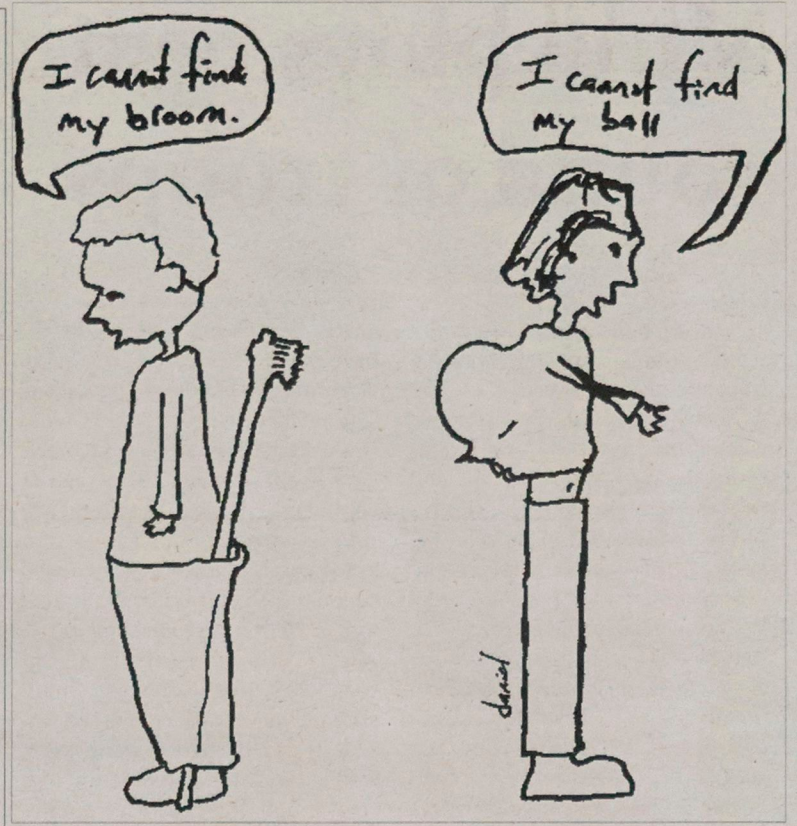


Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Hiding under the meaningless "not-for-profit" label, 12 home health agencies have carved the state into separate service territories and agree not to compete with one another. Together, they endlessly lobby the Vermont Legislature and state regulators to make sure persons with Medicare and Medicaid — taxpayer funded insurances — have no other home health agency to call upon when they are ill. State regulators ask no meaningful questions and the agencies actively campaign against legislators who promote consumer choice and competition — which all other states embrace as a means of ensuring quality and lowering charges.

Here's the hard truth on Vermont's home health agencies' claim of having the "lowest cost" in the nation. It means the monopoly's INTERNAL costs of providing home care are the lowest in the nation. It has nothing to do with the agencies bill or the reimbursement they receive. In fact, Vermont's home health monopoly has the highest profit margin on Medicare today, and is also paid the highest Medicaid home care reimbursement in the nation. As for private insurance, because Vermont allows a monopoly to control this $100 million annual market, private insurance is forced to pay about 25 percent more than it does in states where there is home health competition.

The bigger question is this: Who are the people in the Vermont state government who put a monopoly's interests above those of homebound seniors and taxpayers all these years? Perhaps the Department of Justice will get us some well-deserved answers and give us all a choice at last.

Sincerely,
Megan Price
Shelburne, VT

To the Editor:

Having taken Jon Isham's inspiring J-term class, Social Movements and Climate Change, I wanted to add to the article in the last issue of *The Middlebury Campus* about the "tropical weather" this winter. Perhaps you've heard or felt the buzz going around about Jon's class and the 25 new and energized activists it has created. Why are we so charged about this issue? Because while the government and media still question whether climate change is in fact occurring, the scientific community and a vast network of dedicated activists, socially responsible businesses students, and religious leaders are waving their arms frantically, hoping to attract the attention of the United States before it's too late. Despite the apparent controversy in politics and the media over climate change, the science isn't in question. And the most significant findings are telling us we don't have much time. According to the science, stabilizing our climate will require a 70 percent reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2020. In Vermont, climate change means shortened winters, a significant decrease in snowfall and the eventual disappearance of maple syrup production. Globally it means rising sea levels, disturbed and increasingly violent weather patterns and massive famines. Not just flip-flops in winter.

In beginning to understand the urgency and scale of the climate crisis, students on campus have mobilized to bring several organizations together around this issue. As the group is not a formal organization, but a group of concerned students, it encourages any student, faculty, or administrator to attend. The group meets Sundays from 9 to 11 p.m. in Chateau Grand Salon.

Kelly Blynn '07

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's website at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Midd lacks political diversity

Thoughtful dialogue is necessary for students to become critical thinkers — only through defending our ideas can we determine our real views. The majority of Middlebury students identify themselves as Democrats, and this fact raises an important question — does political affiliation in the student body hinder dialogue on important national and foreign issues?

A Dec. 4 article in the *Economist* criticized American universities for harboring faculty whose biases prevent meaningful discussion on many issues. "Students hear only one side of the story on everything from abortion (good) to the rise of the West (bad)." The author goes on to argue that despite all the emphasis that institutions such as Middlebury place on diversity in race and sexual orientation, we have neglected diversity of political opinion. In doing so, academia is dominated by one worldview which too often coincides with the party line of the Democrats.

I recently talked with Roman Graf, the Dean for Institutional Diversity, about this problem. He raised several important points. First, professors evaluate students not on the findings of their work, but rather on *how* we argue our points. Second, the hiring trend of our academic departments is towards diversity because it is a waste of money to hire two professors with identical views. Lastly, he mentioned the results of the Senior Exit Survey from 2001 and 2002. When students were asked to rank ability to express their political views, find mentors and become involved in the college communities, there was no significant difference between the responses of liberal and conservative students.

All of these points indicate that at Middlebury, we are doing something right. If academia in the United States is generally of one political view, Middlebury may be an exception to the rule. However, Roman and I both agreed that in the current political climate, conservatives may be more excluded at Middlebury than in the past. The problem is that the policies of the Bush administration are not really conservative. For example, federal spending has significantly risen since 2001 administration and the scope of government has increased. We would be mistaken to associate conservative thought with the Republican Party and liberal thought with the Democratic Party. Any factual information about issues like globalization and social security are obscured when these issues become politicized.

The only way to really engage our minds is through dialogue. Because diversity of political views encourages dialogue, we need to encourage this diversity. Conservative thinker David Horowitz has proposed an "academic bill of rights" to guarantee that professors will present politically balanced views. Such a policy, however, would hinder discussion even further because college curriculums would be decided by political agendas. In Middlebury's academic environment, we have the opportunity to study with many different professors, and the so-called "balanced curriculum" would diminish the richness of opinion that we experience.

Instead, I think that the best way to advance discussion at Middlebury is from the bottom up beginning with us, the students. We need to recognize and then question the limitations of our two-party system. As Roman told me, the viewpoints of any individual seldom fit within the Republican and Democrat configuration. Political opinion is unique from race, ethnicity or sexual identity because it can be changed. If we are more critical of political affiliation, we can improve dialogue on campus.

COLIN KIKUCHI '05
AN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND GEOGRAPHY MAJOR FROM FALLS CHURCH, VA.

Feb celebration falls outside ICC

To the Middlebury College Community:

Throughout the last semester, the Intercommons Council (ICC) has been discussing the future of the Commons and attempting to establish a line between what we feel is a Commons based initiative, and what is a general program aimed at the student body as a whole. There has been a considerable amount of dialogue, and while we are constantly refining our boundaries, we all believe that our purpose is to first provide worthwhile activities for the students in our Commons.

For the past month, we have been discussing Feb Celebration and the Feb Committee's request for funding from the ICC. Needless to say, this has not been an easy decision. After discussing the situation at length with the Feb Celebration Committee, it appears to us that Feb Celebration is not receiving adequate funding. Despite the fact that Middlebury College puts such a large emphasis on the Feb program throughout the admissions process and when new Febs arrive each spring, it seems as though the administration is unwilling to support this group of students financially as they prepare their Celebration. Since Febs comprise a significant portion of each graduating class, it seems to us that it is the administration's responsibility to fully fund an event that impacts such a large percentage of our student body. The College encourages Febs to take pride in their acceptance and come together as a group of 100 or so students and it does not seem right that they are forced to search for funding from various other organizations on campus. Furthermore, since Feb Celebration is clearly not a Commons-based initiative and will in no way further support each Commons community, the ICC does not feel that it is our responsibility to fund the $500 requested by the committee; however, we find ourselves in a difficult situation. We unanimously agree that Feb Celebration deserves adequate funding and strongly believe that some other organization, group, or office on campus should cover the funds requested by the Committee. Even though all Febs do have the opportunity to participate in May Graduation, Feb Celebration does mark the end of their four years here, and it is the responsibility of the administration to provide adequate funding and support for this event.

It does not seem right that [Febs] are forced to search for funding from various other organizations.

Again, the ICC's decision has not come easily and while we completely support the Feb Committee, we do not feel that it is the individual Commons' place to fund this program. Instead, we hope that some other campus organization will see the importance of this Celebration and provide the support necessary to make Feb Celebration a memorable weekend.

ALEXIS KEARNEY '05, ANDREW BERMUDEZ '07, RYAN DUNN-KOMEH '05, BENJAMIN BRUNO '06, NICK CAMPOFRANCO '06, LAUREN YOUNG '06, FILIP ODQVIST '07, DAVID LEE '07, SETH MIRAN '07, ABIGAIL SANDERS '05, SARA GRANSTROM '07
MEMBERS OF THE ICC

Sam Says

A Political Commentary

By Sam Wilson

How about a game? Here is the *Merriam Webster Dictionary*'s definition of "crisis" — "an unstable or crucial time or state of affairs in which a decisive change is impending; *especially*: one with the distinct possibility of a highly undesirable outcome." With that in mind, examine the facts, and decide for yourself if Social Security faces a "crisis."

Social Security pays for the benefits it gives out today with the taxes it collects today. However, it currently collects more than it pays out. This surplus of money is invested into U.S. treasury bonds, what important people call the Social Security Trust Fund. The Fund exists to ensure that Social Security will be able to pay out benefits, even if the program starts to run a deficit.

According to the 75 year projections the Social Security trustees make, the program is in some trouble, a shortfall of a few trillion dollars. But the state of Social Security depends on the demographics of the nation, so this projection is at best a ballpark guess.

For argument's sake, imagine its still 2003, and think of 75 years before then, 1928. Who could have possibly projected the Depression, World War II, the Pill, the Baby Boom, a decline in tobacco use and a rise in obesity? Realistically, the long term projection is a noble guess.

The administration tells us that 2018 is a crucial year because Social Security will start to run a deficit then. While not a good thing, it is expected and common. Since 1970, Social Security has been in the red 11 years. And remember, the Trust Fund exists for just that type of situation.

Unfortunately though, the projections state that *as the program now stands*, it will continue to run deficits after 2018, paying for the Boomers. These deficits will eventually exhaust the Trust Fund in 2042. This is the doomsday we have been hearing about, when Social Security will be bankrupt. I will be 60 then, just a few years from my retirement. Social Security will be bankrupt. Should I be terrified?

No. First, of all Social Security is a pay-as-you-go program. Taxes then will still be coming in and in turn paid as benefits to people such as myself. *As the program now stands*, I will be able to receive just over 70 percent of scheduled benefits when I retire. A cut yes, but the program will not simply cease to exist.

Second, I do not fear 2042 because that all of this assumes the system remains *as it now stands*. When the economy tanked in the late '70s, Social Security faced a legitimate crisis. The Trust Fund was set to run out in the early 1980s. Ronald Reagan came into office and decided to act rationally to fix it. He gave the program a few tweaks by cutting benefits a little in raising the retirement age from 65 to 67 and slightly raising taxes. And guess what — that solved the crisis.

So, is there a crisis?

Isn't Social Security fun?

The Middlebury Campus online poll

YES, I ENJOY SEEING PEOPLE WALK IN LARGE GROUPS.

—KRISTIN SMART '05

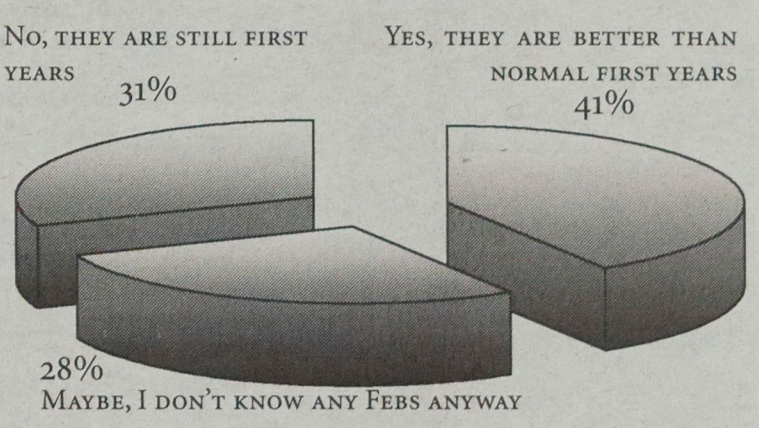
SURE, NEW FACES ALWAYS ENLIVEN THE CAMPUS.

—SCOTT BULUA '07

SURE, IT'S ALWAYS GREAT TO HAVE NEW PEOPLE ON CAMPUS, BUT IT'S HARD TO TELL IF THEY'RE FEBS OR JUST JUNIORS RETURNING TO CAMPUS. IT'S REALLY EMBARASSING.

—SARAH KIM '07

ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO THE ARRIVAL OF THIS YEAR'S FEBS?



Results based on 93 responses collected between January 14 and January 25 at www.middleburycampus.com

NEXT WEEK'S POLL QUESTION: DO YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO LET FIRST YEAR STUDENTS RUSH SOCIAL HOUSES IN THEIR SECOND SEMESTER?

Midd population needs Iraqi representation

There is no doubt that Iraq is in a state of crisis. Nearly two years since the launch of *Operation Iraqi Freedom* — much less than freedom — we have yet to accomplish the modest goal of stability. Despite the promise of installing a functioning democracy through the impending elections, we have reason to remain cautious — the names of many candidates have been withheld to protect their lives from insurgent attacks that have increased in intensity and number with each new month.

The failure of democracy in Iraq would be the failure of democracy in the Middle East. With democracy weighing in the balance, we are compelled to act. One of the crucial factors tipping the scale toward chaos is the pitting of two biased and unchallenged views against each other — a confrontation of misunderstandings that can only perpetuate conflict.

Through personal contact with an Iraqi student, we would gain a deeper understanding of Iraq and our relation to the country we hope to rebuild.

Charred bodies hanging from bridges, burning cars, kidnapped journalists and decapitated aid workers — these are the images around which the American vision of Iraq is formed.

Protection of pipelines before bus lines, the immorality of Western values, torture at Abu Ghraib and inexperience with democracy – these are the elements composing the Iraqi view of America.

We need not fatally accept ignorance. In fact, as students of the liberal arts, it is our duty to turn to education as the solution. Greater understanding would breed greater cooperation. Middlebury has an opportunity to fulfill its educative purpose by challenging these black and white world views.

One promising means to realizing mutual understanding through education is the creation of an endowed scholarship to Middlebury for an interested Iraqi student. At Middlebury, this student would present lectures and lead discussions on subjects related to Iraq and American-Iraqi relations. At the end of his/her four years, the student would return home, where he/she would conduct a project to promote civil society through community service. The student would also be expected to speak at his/her high school about experiences in the United States. Finally, Iraqi alumni would provide yearly updates to Middlebury and would help with recruitment of future participants.

This program would bridge the gap between Americans and Iraqis, permitting cross-cultural dialogue. The presence of an Iraqi student on campus would enrich the Middlebury community and American awareness in general. Through personal contact with an Iraqi student, we would gain a deeper understanding of Iraq and our relation to the country we hope to rebuild. Middlebury students would be in a better position to make informed decisions about diplomatic action, to form educated opinions and to cast meaningful votes. The implications of this program would reach a broader cross-section of the American public as we graduate and, as leaders and active citizens, pass on our familiarity with Iraq and the Middle East.

As an institution that has long distinguished itself through its international focus and dedication to foreign languages and cultures, Middlebury is an ideal location to host such a project. Currently, about 10 percent of students are citizens of countries other than the United States, and represent about 75 nations. In addition, the popularity of study abroad and the language schools are indicative of Middlebury's internationalism.

As students of the liberal arts, it is our duty to turn to education as the solution.

The newly founded Arabic school and major, as well as the budding Middle Eastern Studies major illustrate the growing commitment of the school to promoting awareness about the Middle East through education. An Iraqi student would complement these programs and would encourage us to pursue these new studies.

A Middlebury Iraqi alumnus would also bring knowledge of the United States and of democracy back home. Each political regime has a corresponding system of education. Founded upon popular participation, an appropriate democratic education is especially crucial to democracy. Four years at Middlebury would serve both as an initiation into the liberal arts tradition and as an education in liberal democratic values.

Through the study of the liberal arts, an Iraqi student would acquire the intellectual habits of independent thinking and critical analysis. Furthermore, he/she would bear witness to the workings of civil society and would become familiar with the principles of democratic citizenship — freedom of the press, freedom of thought and expression, freedom of association and religious tolerance, etc. While at Middlebury, an Iraqi student would also have the opportunity to learn first hand how to form organizations and to assume positions of leadership.

Upon returning home, the Middlebury alumnus would be prepared to meet the challenges of a democracy in its infancy. As a college graduate who has garnered the intellectual skills that facilitate success, the Iraqi student would be ideally situated to become a leader in government and/or role model in civil society. Moreover, having personally developed democratic civic virtues, the Iraqi student through his/her own example would inspire others to preserve liberty, to aspire to social justice and to cultivate and educate the passion for equality. Finally, through a personal awareness of the American people and American values, the Iraqi student would possess an arsenal of knowledge with which to combat institutionalized bias. In sum, from his/her time at Middlebury, the graduate would possess the power of knowledge with which to nurture liberal democracy in Iraq and promote mutual understanding between our countries.

At this decisive juncture for democracy in the Middle East, Middlebury has an opportunity and responsibility to define and to promote common goals for our increasingly intertwined societies. Through personal contact with an Iraqi student, the nameless faceless enemy of Orwell's *1984* becomes human and familiar as we are forced from the comforts of abstraction to face an Iraqi as a peer. Let us take this modest step in the direction of a new beginning.

LESLIE THOMPSON '05
DAVID BELANICH '05
AN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES MAJOR AND A FRENCH AND POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR FROM PRINCETON, NJ. AND GREAT NECK, NY.

WANTED:

arts editor

Responsible for creating and assigning articles based on arts-related events at the College and in the surrounding community. Must be able to think outside the box and conceptualize innovative feature ideas. Also responsible for layout of section.

local news editor

Responsible for conceiving, assigning and editing local news stories. Also responsible for layout of section. Must be interested in town and state politics and community events and have a mind for creative journalism.

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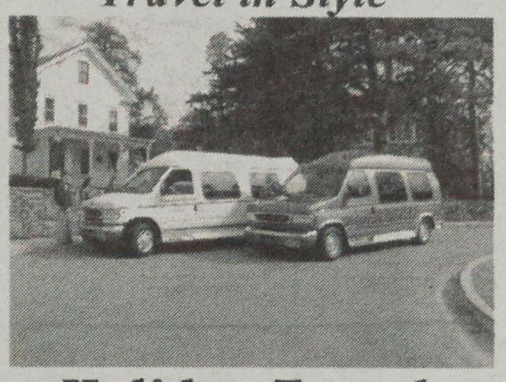

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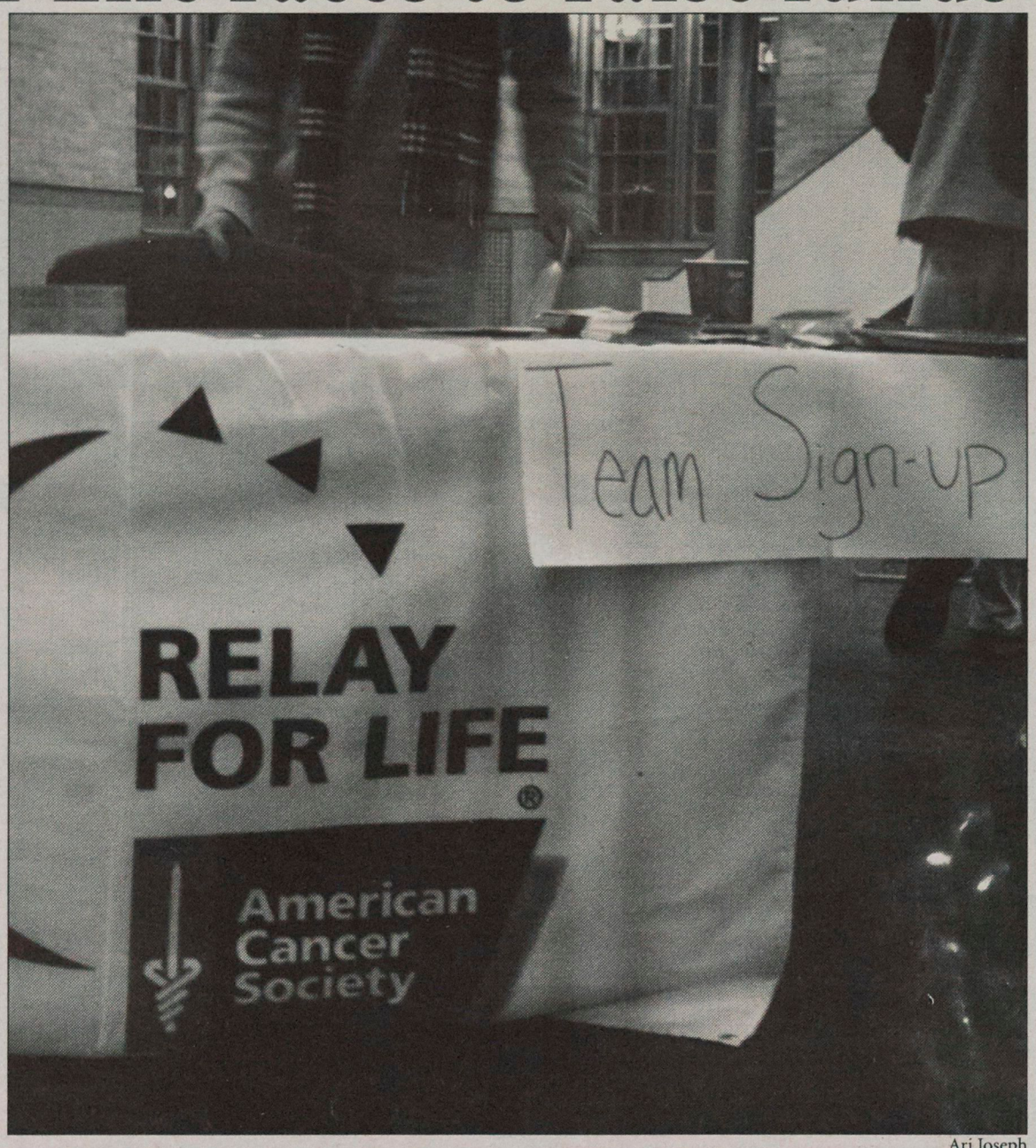
NEW LOCAL FOODS... AND POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS TOO!

Relay for Life races to raise funds

Kick-off event gives students a head start

By Kimberly Schrimsher
Staff Writer



Ari Joseph
The Relay for Life kickoff event at McCullough brought enthusiastic participants.

Cheers erupted from the audience as Ross Lieb-Lappen '07 and Meg Young '07 walked across the stage. With rock star energy the two Middlebury sophomores rallied about 75 students on a recent Tuesday night in McCullough Hall. They gave away prizes to the enthusiastic crowd, promoted an upcoming all-night spring party and challenged students to solicit as many friends as they could to attend. The date to remember is April 29 and the event is Middlebury's second annual Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society (ACS).

Relay for Life is "an overnight party and a memorial service," said Young. "People get together on teams to walk the relay track, but they must keep a member walking at all times. We will not sleep that night, because cancer never sleeps."

Young and Lieb-Lappen introduced Relay for Life to Middlebury last year, having worked on the national ACS fundraiser in their hometowns. The co-chairs exceeded everyone's expectations by generating 46 teams and raising a whopping $84,000. Riding on their enormously successful debut, the students hosted the Jan. 18 kickoff to announce the 2005 relay goal of 60 teams and $100,000.

"People across the country talked about our success," said Young, recalling last year's event. "Middlebury raised the highest amount of money per person in New England," an achievement Young credits to the overwhelming support from students and the town of Middlebury.

"We had a few teams from the community at the relay last year and they were blown away that this event was put on by students," said Deb Jorschick, ACS Community Executive for Income Development. "Ross and Meg have unlimited energy and they make me tired just watching them. They are committed to the fight against cancer. When I was in college, we weren't doing this kind of stuff."

ACS originally proposed a 2004 goal of $19,000 for Middlebury, given the area's population. Lieb-Lappen wanted to be optimistic and shot for $25,000, the general goal of most large universities. "We challenged each person on a team to raise $100," he said. "Most raised well over the goal." As a result, ACS named Middlebury "Rookie of the Year."

Relay for Life is a national overnight fundraiser held in more than 4,200 cities. People create teams to raise money and participate in a relay walk throughout the night. Filled with festive entertainment, food and poignant memorials, Middlebury's relay unites students, professors and townspeople.

"We have the opening lap for the actual cancer survivors," said Lieb-Lappen. "Last year we sold more than 800 luminaries for $5 a piece in honor of or in memory of those touched by cancer. These bags are arranged alphabetically around the track and are lit at 9 p.m. during our luminary ceremony. All relay participants take a lap in silence followed by a lap led by bagpipes. These bags stay lit through the entire night."

Middlebury's Relay committee consists of 20 volunteers that have been working since September on the 2005 event. Organized into committees that focus on orchestrating elements of the event such as logistics, registration, food and beverages, luminaries, ceremonies, entertainment, survivorship, picture a cure, publicity and cancer education, these students make sure that the event will run smoothly. Student groups such as the Mischords and campus bands will make guest appearances. To nourish the fatigued participants, the Taste of Relay charges a small $5 fee and offers unlimited access to culinary delights from more than 15 area restaurants.

"We had such a positive turnout last year that I wanted to help again," said logistics committee member Caitlin Matthews '07. "My best friend's father died of cancer this past October and one of my family members was just diagnosed, which makes this event more important to me."

The students' familiarity with cancer, a disease that leaves few families untouched, is also what draws them to fundraise for a cure — in whatever way they can help.

"I was involved with Relay in high school and I wanted to continue to help because it's a good cause," Becky Bierman '08. My grandmother died of pancreatic cancer which also motivated me to come. I'm even thinking about starting my own team."

"My grandmother had cancer which makes Relay become much more relevant," said Lizi Geballe '07. "In recent years, I find that you keep meeting more and more people with cancer which is why this event is so important."

"I believe that the way technology is moving definitely gives hope to finding a cure within the next 10 to 15 years," said Johanna Riesel '05. "There has been a shift toward preventative health care, which will greatly help cancer patients."

Jorschick added, "Cancer's been a personal thing for me which brought me to work here (ACS). I got involved with Relay seven years ago when I lost my father-in-law to lung cancer. He was one of the longest survivors of lung cancer and I attribute that to the research and drugs that are available. We had five extra years with him that we probably wouldn't have had 10 years ago."

Relay for Life will be held on the soccer field behind Middlebury's football field. Campgrounds with tents will provide sleeping shelter for participants needing rest. A key change this year is the introduction of the theme "Relay 2005: Books Come Alive." The goal is to incorporate reading into the spirit of Relay by encouraging team members to come to the event dressed up as their favorite book character.

With the January kick-off, the success of the 2005 event now depends heavily on participants' ability to organize teams and raise money in the coming months. Anyone can start a team as long as a minimum of six individuals participate. Each team member is encouraged to raise a minimum of $100.

Relay for Life at a glance

When: April 29 - 30, 2005
3 p.m. – 9 a.m.
Where: Middlebury Track

Team Requirements: Six person minimum
Suggested $100 minimum per team member

Special Events:
Opening Lap for Cancer Survivors Memorial Lap of Silence
Luminary Memorials $5 each
Taste of Relay $5 per person
Music & Entertainment

Theme: Relay 2005 Books Come Alive - come dressed as a favorite children's book character

For more information, email relayforlife@middlebury.edu

All that we did not do during Winter Term

By Pat Abatiell
Staff Writer

All productive people are alike; all unproductive people are unproductive in their own way.

That's a clever reference to *Anna Karenina*, the book I didn't read this J-Term. I intended to, though. I talked about it a lot over Christmas break — "my J-Term project," I called it, and every time I was in a Barnes and Noble I would pick up the book and flip through it. I figured, with a schedule that consists of one class that meets for approximately six hours a week, I'd have plenty of time to finish a 900 page novel, and I was excited. My blockmate planned to read it with me, and we talked about having our own private book club where every few days we would make tea and discuss Anna's measured progress toward the train station platform.

Charming plan, I think. The problem is, it never happened. I don't even own a copy of the book. I just never got around to buying it. And now, with only a few days of J-Term left before real life starts devouring us once again, I realize that over the past month, I haven't really gotten around to doing anything.

I had such straightforward and noble intentions: read a great work of literature, snowboard a lot, spend time outdoors, try to curb winter weight-gain, establish a healthy and loving relationship that would last for the rest of my life. But in the end, I came nowhere close to accomplishing these goals, and what I did instead is not entirely clear.

I think it consisted largely of splaying. I spent a lot of time this J-Term prostrate, and not in the way that suggests activity, as in being prostrate beneath someone else, but in the sense of just laying there, limbs abandoned, eyes closed, wondering how long I had until Proctor opened.

I am consoled, however, by the knowledge that I am not alone in experiencing this feeling of wallowing in my own uselessness. It seems that the paralyzing torpor of J-Term is something most Middlebury students can relate to. The majority of people I talked to looked slightly panicked when I asked the question "What do you think you accomplished this term?" There were a lot of blank stares, a lot of lip biting, but not much in the way of success stories. The answers I got were more like the meager scrapings of actual achievement, and I found myself having to give a lot of fake smiles, like the ones I got at the end of every Little League season when the coach handed me the "Best Attendance" award.

"We went to a yoga class once," said sophomores Chris Heinrich and Carol Wilson. When asked why they did not go back, the pair agreed that they "just never quite made it." Eli Berman '07.5 proudly reported that he had "gained a little weight." He even gave his stomach a few satisfied pats, which, now that I think about it, makes me a little jealous. At least he has something to show for a month worth of effort.

Abby Friedman '07 believes that the phenomenon of inactivity during J-Term is the result of the relative chaos of students' normal lives. She had intended to use this month to look for a summer internship and to build up her resumé, but for Friedman, that just wasn't in the cards. "In the fall and spring there's work," she said. "Work and clubs and jobs and exams and everything. Then you go home for break, but there are all these other obligations — family, holidays, old friends. J-Term just gives you the chance to turn your brain off for a while." She later said that she plans to look for that internship over Feb Break, the same week my blockmate and I agreed we would "definitely start *Anna Karenina*."

J-Term, however, was not a total loss for everyone. I asked one student in Proctor what she had gotten out of this month, and after a solid minute of contemplation, she responded, "I don't know." A while later, however, she amended that answer. "I've got one," she said. "This morning at breakfast, a boy touched me."

I asked Student Government Association Senator Isabel Yordan '07 her thoughts on that response. "Hell," she said, "That's not bad. I haven't even started the book I wanted to read last J-Term."

Everyone wants to do a lot over J-term. This J-term the cartoonist for the paper resolved to work really hard and make really good, funny cartoons. The following is what ensued.

Exploring the benefits of Winter Term internships

By Ethan Lake
Staff Writer

For some, Winter Term is a time of low-key vegging. For others, however, internships maintained over the month of January provide hands on experience and experimentation in possible career fields. Nearly 170 students apply for internships during the month of January in myriad locations, from Lehman Brothers financial in New York, to Porter Hospital in town (one of the most popular internships annually), to international aid organizations in countries such as Swaziland.

What do the internships involve, and how does one apply for them?

According to the 2005 Winter Term Internship application, "Internships involve significant, high-level exposure to and participation in the work of an established career. [...] Winter Term Internships require a minimum of 100 hours of active participation during Winter Term. According to Middlebury College policy, internships for academic credit are unpaid career experiences, although students may receive a stipend to pay for their living expenses."

Sophomores through Seniors may apply for an internship during January, and 99 percent of those who fill out the detailed application and obtain the support of their advisor have their applications accepted by the Curriculum Committee. In order for the internship to be valid for credit the student must write an essay outlining their prospective internship and submit it to the Curriculum Committee along with their application. During the course of their work they must either keep a journal of their activities or take notes on their experience, as well as make a good impression on their supervisor. Once the internship is completed the student must either submit their journal to the Career Services Office (CSO) or submit an essay evaluating their experience from the notes they took during the month.

Why would a student voluntarily cede their J-Term, generally a time of skiing and enjoyment, for 100 hours of work in the labor force when it seems that Middlebury students try as hard as possible to delay entering the real world. Charles Goulding '05 and Jenna Boyle '06.5 share their thoughts on why they decided to eschew J-Term for an internship.

Goulding is an intern with the Honorable William K. Sessions, U.S. District Judge. When asked what motivated him to seek an internship, he replied that "the CSO sent out a number of emails about them and they sounded pretty compelling. They mentioned that the internships were 'fantastic opportunities' and so forth and that caught my eye. I also felt like the school had all these resources I wasn't 'tapping' and that I'd regret it if I didn't use CSO a bit more."

How does working, however, compare to the usual winter term routine? Gould explains that "all in all this internship beats the J-term classes I've taken and it would be stupid not to at least look into one next year. When I tell people I'm clerking for a Federal Court Judge a lot of them look shocked. My Uncle told me at his law school any type of clerkship was impressive but that a clerkship with a Federal Court Judge was 'like, whoa.' If this type of thing appeals to you at all, the competition is a fraction of what it will be in the real world. Judge Sessions is also a very highly regarded person and the chance to observe him doing his thing for a month is a privilege."

Boyle, on the other hand, decided to work at Lehman Brothers, a the New York investment banking firm, because she knew she didn't want to stay at Middlebury. "So when the opportunity to intern at Lehman Brothers presented itself, I thought it would be a great way to spend J-term. I had never seriously considered a career in the financial investment industry, and I thought that a month long internship would be the perfect way to discover my level of interest in the business," Boyle said.

Of her experience at the firm, Boyle said, "The first couple of days were a complete whirlwind and a lot of the jargon was Greek to me. By the end of the first week though, I had learned a tremendous amount and really started to get a grasp of the business. On Day one I was exposed to the bond market for the first time. By the end of the week, I was in on conference calls to branches across the country —and could actually understand what was going on. I spend a lot of my time just talking with the sellers and traders, watching them in action and gaining their insights and knowledge. I love the environment of this internship."

The Career Service Office says that there exists strong anecdotal evidence that seeking internships not only aids a student's resumé for graduate school, but may even help them in finding a job after college. Several students have commented that they have been offered jobs with the firm that they interned at post graduation. Just some food for thought for next J-term

PANTHER TOP 10

What music makes the Middlebury Charts? Here are the weekly top Napster downloads on campus.

1. Kelly Clarkson — Since U Been gone
2. Gwen Stefani — Rich Girl
3. Ciara — One, Two Step
4. Air — Ce Matin La
5. Green Day — Boulevard of Broken Dreams
6. Seal — Waiting For You
7. Jennifer Lopez — Get Right
8. Goo Goo Dolls — Give A Little Bit
9. The Killers— Somebody Told Me
10. Zero 7 — In the Waiting Line

BY MATT KUNZWEILER

I couldn't point to an exact date or place, but somewhere in the not-so-distant past, the '80s lost their endearing retro glimmer and many of us have grown blasé about the prospect of finding the neon clothing in our closets and getting into costume for another uninventive theme party. It was fun at first, but thanks to some relentless party-planners at this college, there is an '80s party every weekend. And now look what they've done: the music, the dress, the attitude — all dead, beyond recovery.

It's true that we love to dress up like idiots (some people do it every day without even knowing it). But there's more to it than that. I believe that many of us have a secret lust for trashy pop music, but we are afraid to admit it.

However, we are able to satisfy this desire by listening to '80s trashy pop music, as we feel there is a crucial degree of detachment. We can look down on it and laugh because the genre is dated. We moved on and the music didn't. We are not expected to take the songs seriously, but we still reel from the forbidden enjoyment of listening to bad pop — the type of music that would be unacceptable to play in any other context. So we can stroll into 80s parties and congratulate each other for our second hand clothing while some jerk on the dance floor makes a depressing attempt at the robot.

I missed the '80s the first time around, since I spent most of my time learning to read, standing in time out, jumping on trampolines and stumbling around in a giddy euphoria induced by abusing my asthma inhaler, which is now off the market.

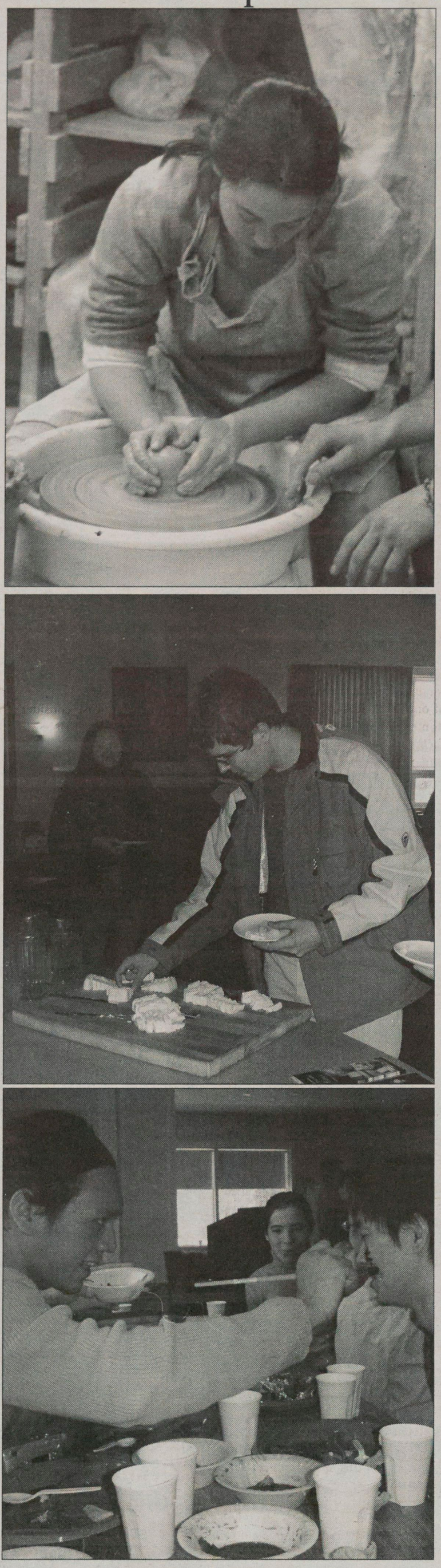
So when the '80s Revival began a few years ago, I was readily on board. I thought that I could finally experience those magical years by stepping into a foreign image and dancing to goofy songs I never remember being popular. But my glee proved short-lived. For me, there isn't any nostalgia tied to the music, the dress or the image. The decade is essentially meaningless to me and I feel like an imposter when I steal someone else's style.

If I found out that a 12-year-old thought it was funny to dress up in flannel and listen to Nirvana, I'd probably suckerpunch him. I couldn't tolerate that type of disrespect. And I'm sure that if more Gen-Xers knew about our little fun, they'd drive their VW Golfs straight to campus and box our ears.

But with the death of the '80s, a new retro obsession must be found. And many people are shifting to (big surprise) the '90s to get their fix. VH1 has already purchased the exclusive rights to the entire decade, and I want nothing to do with it. Instead, I'm throwing a Nihilist party this weekend.

Taking a hefty courseload this term

Winter Workshops allow for self-exploration, and some fun



Warm and content Middlebury students explore the bounds of their own creativity in this year's Winter Term Workshops, from face-painting and pottery to the luscious realms of "Tasting & Touring Vermont Farmstead Cheeses," and Chinese dumplings.

Photos by Ed Francis, Sixiao Huo, Jennifer Kim and Hans Manzke.

By Audrey Nelson
Staff Writer

Winter Term — the perfect opportunity for tired, stressed Middlebury students to take one month to relax, spend quality time with friends and... learn how to Irish Step Dance? Tinker in the kitchen with the culinary creations of the Italian culture?

This might sound bizarre to all non-Midd-kids, but in fact, these unique and fun-filled opportunities are available to students and members of the community throughout January as Winter Workshops. A wide range of topics are covered in these workshops, which are meant to open the students' minds to an array of new talents and experiences that they never knew they possessed. Taught by students and professors alike as well as eager citizens from the town of Middlebury, Winter Workshops have proven to be quite a hit with the campus and the community, and are an active highlight of the Middlebury winter.

The Center for Campus Activities and Leadership (CCAL), responsible for organizing and advertising the Winter Workshops, revealed that this year's workshops have been highly successful. The long waiting lists for particular workshops are an indication of how popular these courses are.

Statistically speaking, the cooking classes and wine tasting workshops filled almost immediately, hinting that Middlebury students are chock-full of food and wine appreciation, and rightfully so. What better way to counter negative degree weather than to retreat into a warm kitchen with delicious goodies, or pass the time with Mr. Merlot and his friend Cabernet?

Not only were the hungry and thirsty flocking to CCAL to sign up to take part in workshops, but those fascinated by the maintenance and upkeep of cars also rushed on over. "My Car Won't Start Because..." offered the less technologically savvy among the student body a "look under the hood" to "learn what it takes to make the car start, run and stay running," and had a waiting list that rivaled those of the cooking classes. Students looking to learn something new also signed up for the various dance workshops, which filled up incredibly quickly.

First-years that, along with Sophomore Febs, entered their first J-Term this month, had plenty to say about their new experiences. Molly Huff '08 commented that the dance workshops were a good opportunity to do things that she could not do during the regular semester. "I'm definitely not the best dancer, so I thought it would be fun to attempt Hip Hop and Latin this J-term and spice things up a bit," she said.

Eli Menaker '08 revealed that Ballroom Dancing and Irish Step Dancing were especially entertaining, but not only because of the topic. He enjoyed the fact that Irish Step Dancing was taught by students. "To learn new and interesting things from other students has been exceptionally worthwhile because I feel like they can relate to us in ways that certain professors cannot. I'm thinking about perhaps teaching one in the future, though I'm not sure what I would teach. I just have so many skills that I'm unsure of which ones to impart onto the Middlebury community," he joked.

The Winter Workshops offered this Winter Term offered students a plethora of innovative courses. Some of the classes may leaves students with skills that will last a lifetime...or at least until next WTerm.

Upcoming changes in the way Midd does food

By Lauren Armstrong
Staff Writer

Whether you're a slave to the Proctor panini machine, a faithful Freeman International Center (FIC) goer or willing to face the masses at Ross, food is inevitably an important part of your day. With many changes occurring in Middlebury's dining services, including the construction of the new Atwater dining hall and the incorporation of more local food products into the daily menus, there are many opportunities to influence the type of food we find at the dining halls every day. Classes and workshops offered during J-term are great resources for learning to appreciate the food that we eat, and to put it in the context of the greater community and world food systems.

Many efforts have been made to include locally and sustainably produced food in the dining hall selections. Matthew Biette, director of Dining Services, estimates that 25 percent of the budget currently goes toward the purchase of local food products, such as eggs, milk, bacon, sausage, apples and seasonal vegetables. While it is clear that unless we give up everything that does not grow in Vermont during the winter — and let's face it, that includes just about everything — we will not be solely dependent on local produce. However, a large portion of the local food products used by dining services are eggs, dairy and meat, which are produced year round.

Dining Services has recently added bacon from the Farmer's Diner in Barre, Vt., a restaurant that supports local farmers by purchasing about 80 percent of their ingredients from within 50 miles of the diner, and soon plans to offer a locally grown hot cereal at breakfast. Local food is incorporated whenever it is economically feasible, and products that are not found in Vermont, such as salmon, are often obtained from sustainable sources.

There are many advantages to using as many local products as possible, from boosting the local economy to reducing the expenses and environmental impact of transporting food over long distances. There is a certain joy found in the knowledge that being conscious about what you eat can support the livelihood of the people that form the community surrounding Middlebury and make Vermont the agricultural Eden that it is.

Winter Term is a great time to expand your appreciation and knowledge of food, with workshops such as "Lebanese Cooking" with Nola Kevra, a farmer in Ripton, and "Tasting and Touring Vermont Farmstead Cheeses," led by Amy Trubeck, director of Vermont Fresh Network and Brad Koehler, director of Ross Dining Services. Classes such as "Eat Locally, Think Globally," taught by local farmer Will Stevens, and "Eat Your Words: Food, Culture and Communication," taught by Middlebury alum and Linguistics professor Shannon Finch, help introduce students to the politics surrounding food systems.

In addition to classes and workshops, there are other discussions and events going on. For example, last Wednesday's "Food for Thought" roundtable discussion about the politics of food, which brought together members of the dining staff, visiting Winter Term professors, farmers and scholars. The discussion, moderated by Scholar-in-Residence Bill McKibben, focused on various perspectives about food in different cultures and regions as well as locally and sustainably produced food.

In February, the College's Organic Garden will be hosting a symposium entitled "Golden Beets or Golden Arches: Exploring the Culture and Politics of Food," featuring Burlington farmer and member of the state legislature David Zuckerman as a keynote speaker, tours of organic farms in the area and a panel discussion on the politics of food on a local, national and international scale. Members of the Organic Garden Club have been working with the dining staff to provide some of the fresh veggies that are offered at meals, and there are plans underway to expand the amount of produce that can be supplied by the garden.

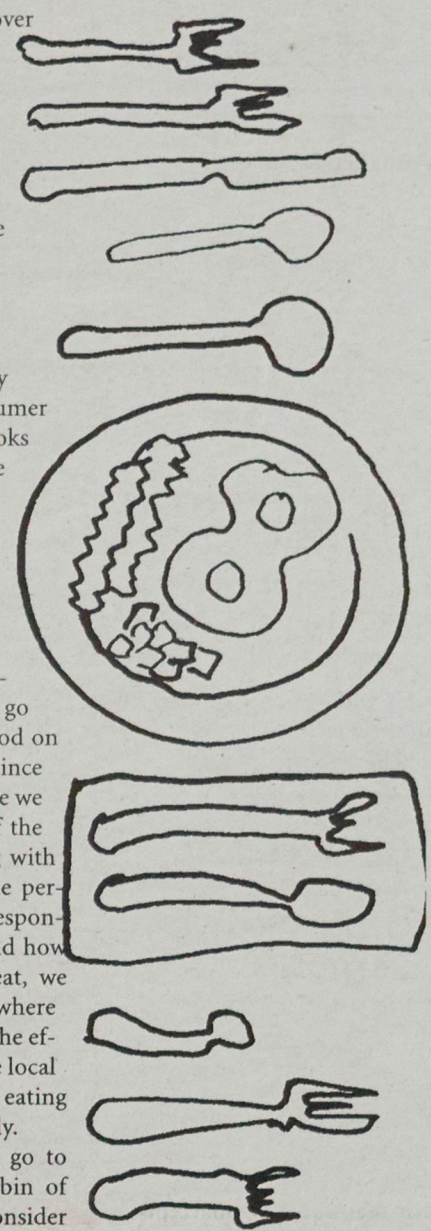
One way to reward the efforts being made by Dining Services to include local fare, such as Vermont apples, milk and vegetables in the daily meal selection, is to eat the local food. By looking for signs in the dining halls that say "local" and taking food from them, you are sending a simple message to Dining Services — I want more local food — and also supporting the farmers in our local community and in Vermont.

And as for the much anticipated Atwater dining hall — maybe we should just give up waiting for it. But seriously, it is going to open, hopefully at the beginning of spring semester. The opening of Atwater will alleviate some of the crowding at places like Ross, which sometimes handles 2,000 people for lunch, with a seating capacity of only 275. Ross plans to revamp its menu to include some of the FIC theme nights, as well as a New Orleans style dinner. Other changes will occur for better or for worse, depending on your personal taste. FIC will be closed for meals and become the new headquarters for catering, and Proctor will be closed on weekends and become the new site of Dolci operations.

The new dining hall will carry much of the staff over from FIC, but the format will be decidedly more Ross-esque, with all food prepared before your hungry eyes. This type of food preparation significantly decreases the amount of pre-consumer waste because everything is prepared only as it is needed. Unfortunately, this type of service actually increases the post-consumer waste because the food looks more appealing, so people take more than they can eat.

The amount of food that is wasted contributes to the College's rising comprehensive fee. Therefore, the argument that paying as much as we do to go here entitles us to waste food on a regular basis is illogical, since the more we waste, the more we ultimately pay. With all of the changes that are occurring with Dining Services, now is the perfect opportunity to take responsibility for what you eat and how much you waste. As we eat, we should all be mindful of where our food comes from, and the effect that we can have on the local economy by consciously eating food that is produced locally.

So the next time you go to Proctor and dive for the bin of Cap'n Crunch, at least consider the hot cereal or fresh (albeit hard-boiled) local eggs. Who knows, they might even taste better.



Let us sing...

Julia Randall

Serenading breakfast-goers at Ross Dining Hall, Twilight Artist-in-Residence and Conductor of the College Choir Francois Clemmons conducts students of the Winter Term Negro Spirituals Course and members of the community during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Prayer Breakfast.

WINNERS & LOSERS

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture? *The Campus* gives its weekly report.

5°	98°
Since when did this become a winner? —Since the average became -30°... Can you believe we were colder than Alaska last week?	Always have been and always will be. When you play second-fiddle to the Backstreet Boys, you know you're hurting.
Nerds No more	Nerds Strike Again!
J-Term parties are on the rise, for we miraculously see beyond the computer screen that impaired our eyes...	Oh NO! And down-hill again we go, when J-Term had left us with such a glow.
To be White, Male and Rich	Promises of "Liberty and Democracy"
And then, this definition of liberty and democracy will be very profitable for you.	Too bad the hollowness of the promises prevented me from hearing President Bush's inaugural speech.

arts

17
FLORAL PHOTOS
CONTEMPORARY GARDEN IMAGES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

18
DANCING QUEENS
AN EVENING OF COLLABORATIVE DANCE PIECES

Dramatic "Experiment" a success

Students and alumnus deliver a polished performance

By Josh Axelrod
Staff Writer

Thought-provoking, hilarious, dramatic. Last weekend's production of Shelagh Stephenson's "An Experiment With an Air Pump" was all this and more. Directed by Professor of Theatre Cheryl Farone, the play follows the lives of two families living in the same house in Newcastle-on-Tyne at the turn of two separate centuries, 200 years apart.

Based both on Joseph Wright of Derby's painting "An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump" and Tom Stoppard's Arcadia, "An Experiment With an Air Pump" takes as its backdrop the ever progressing scientific world and the many ethical and social dilemmas that the constant pursuit of "progress" may inflict on our personal lives, as well as on society as a whole.

The play opens in the present with Ellen (Becky Martin '04.5), a young scientist whose life long inspiration has come from her first viewing of Joseph Wright's painting. Martin's starry-eyed delivery of the opening monologue set a uncomfortably contempletive mood in the play's opening moments, but the bustling movement onto the stage of the play's 1799 cast soon had the audience rapt.

The family of Joseph Fenwick (Alexander Draper '88) including his wife Susannah (Cassidy Freeman '04.5); daughters Harriet (Lauren Turner Kiel '07) and Maria (Lucy Faust '07); their servant Isobel (Eliza Hulme '05); and two visiting young scientists, Roget (Conor O'Neil '07) and Armstrong (John Stokvis '05) are found standing around the fabled "air pump," watching as Joseph experiments on a bird in a vacuum. Yes, the situation is ridiculous, but it raises the plays central question: How much are we willing to lose in order to progress?

Ari Joseph

Alexander Draper '88 (left) and John Stokvis '05 added a comic twist to a discussion of science and progress.

As the play of the past unfolds, this question is hit upon again and again as we watch Armstrong woo the hunchbacked Isobel because he is fascinated by her deformity, willing to ruin her life just to see her naked spine. Hulme, who was startlingly pathetic and pity-evoking as Isobel, delivered a convincing performance, even stirring tears from the audience. Stovkis' playing of Armstrong left the audience confused about his character's motivations during much of the play, but he triumphed in several well-timed farcical moments.

Fenwick, meanwhile, is so driven in his pursuit of knowledge that he lets his family life dissipate until his wife has almost drunk herself into oblivion. Draper was entertainingly irritable as Fenwick, but Freeman often stole the scenes between husband and wife, eliciting hysterical laughter in her tremendously funny performance as a drunk.

Maria's unraveling love affair with "Edward," her distant betrothed, was brilliantly unwound by Faust as she read a series of letters between the pair throughout the show. Faust and Kiel — who were costumed beautifully by Artist-in-Residence Jule Emerson — frequently stole the show with their captivating physical comedic presence and believable bickering as twin sisters.

The supposed lessons of this portrayed past have not come to fruition 200 years later as we see Ellen and her husband Tom (performed, in his second role, by Draper) debate whether or not Ellen should take the job offered by Kate (Nell Wright '05.5), another young and successful scientist. Unfortunately, the link between the two time periods was obscured by Farone's decision to cast additional actors in the 20th century parts, intead of having members of the 1799 cast play their intended modern counterpart.

Luckily, this decision permitted Peter Abrikian '05 to join the cast as Phil, the builder. Abrikian gave a hilarious, unabashed performance that perfectly fulfilled the requirments of his wacky role. Draper also shined in his scenes as Tom, skillfully pulling the audience into the play's weighter themes with his performance.

In the end, the play's openness to the future is delightful. Certainly it argues for an ethical approach to science, but it does not completely undermine the wonder of human discovery. There have been very few plays at Middlebury that have achieved such a perfect balance of thoughtfulness and entertainment. Certainly we must say, hats off to the actors whose performances allowed for such a discussion to develop on the stage, naturally and effectively.

Farone also deserves a fierce round of applause for staging one of the most moving and hilarious productions in recent memory.

"Epitaph" graces Hepburn Zoo

By Ben Salkowe
News Editor

"Insanity," muttered one individual walking out of Epitaph, a sketch comedy originally performed by Ethan Sandler and Adrian Wenner and which made it's college debut in the Hepburn Zoo last weekend under directors Elizabeth Somes '06 and Rachel Dunlap '06. The one word review could not be a more accurate summation of the whirlwind kaleidoscope of sketches that fold in and out of one another throughout the brief show. Epitaph was, as the directors confessed, "under a different genre than most Zoo shows," but its failures as theatre — lacking depth, clarity or meaning — were its brilliant feats of comedy.

The mania begins at a funeral where two men — Corey (Andrew Bishop '05.5) and Warren (David Lindholm '05) — fall into arguing over who last spoke to the recently deceased Georgia Newman (voiced by Rachel Sommer '06.5) before she, well, deceased. The argument quickly escalates to all out war over who loved Georgia more and although we only meet the reportedly "perfect" woman through the voicemail messages she left Warren (which he has meticulously catalogued on his handheld recorder) we quickly see how she devastatingly inflicted every man she met with a paralyzing love-bug. The show follows the attempts of Corey and Warren to cope with their loss of Georgia — Corey embarks on a mission to quit smoking by taking an orange pill called Happy-cor, and Warren falls in the habit of making love to his couch while playing spliced recordings of Georgia's voicemail messages saying "Yes/Warren/Yes/Warren..." Over the course of the evening we meet a host of colorful and random characters including a psychotic travel agent with an aim to plan himself into his client's honeymoon and a pharmaceutical representative who wants to name the ambiguous orange pill he markets "boobs 'n pussy."

The entire cast of characters are played, hilariously, by Bishop and Lindholm. The production's deliberate lack of costumes, props or scenery left a tremendous challenge for strong comedic work as well as mime and even song — both actors met the challenge. Although the first sketches were slow to take-off, the performance quickly fired up and both actors fully embraced the lunacy of the script and their roles, casually and effortlessly switching from character to character and sketch to sketch at a moment's notice.

Ari Joseph

David Lindholm '05 (left) and Andrew Bishop '05.5 kicked off the insanity of "Epitaph" by fighting at funeral.

Somes and Dunlap succeeded tremendously in recreating the Sandler and Wenner sketch, the production's only absence was originality as it seemed to strive religiously to replicate the original sketch. Epitaph was an enjoyable and refreshing change of course from "most Zoo shows," but could it have been even more had the the cast and directors — all of whom have an obvious sense of wit and humor — either taken more liberty in making the production a more uniquely "Middlebury" performance, or jumped fully into their own creative minds and concocted a sketch comedy of their own? Delving into their own talents they might have made better use of the Zoo, the audience or the cast (as it was, the production merely sat the audience against a wall and had all of the action center around two chairs on a bare stage, straying little from the original sketch).

Then again, thinking of the final moment of the play where Georgia's very first admirer stumbled onto the stage wearing an imaginary apple tree costume and proceeded to break down in tears as "Georgia On My Mind" came blasting through the speakers — I would be lying if I said Epitaph had not offered Middlebury one of the most fun, zany and side-splitting evenings of entertainment to take over the Zoo this year — one this reviewer truly enjoyed.

Garden of earthly delights

By Chris Grosso
Senior Staff Writer

Pictures of surreal, Aztec-like encampments. Close-ups of vibrantly colored and silicone-preserved flowers. Snap shots of Claude Monet's water-lily park. Pin-hole prints of whooshing dandelions, and intimate, portraits of private estate backyards. Even images of the little planters from jailhouse grounds. Though varied in subject and perspective, these photographs all communicate the notion of the garden.

To commence its 2005 program, the Middlebury College Museum of Art has offered the opportunity to explore the real and fictitious world of cultivated landscapes. At once mystical and serene, eerie and frightening, the myriad photographs present ethereal and contemplative views of natural terrain. Entitled "Contemporary Photography and the Garden — Deceits and Fantasies," the exhibition features 67 photographs from sixteen American and European artists, diverging in design, scale, and color scheme. The headline is derived from a 13th-century poem, Roman De La Rose.

The first photographs in the exhibition represent the creative endeavors of Gregory Crewdson and set the reflective tone of the show. The untitled works materialize the imagination of Crewdson with fabricated spaces of flowers, butterflies, and hair braids. Colorful and lively just like the creatures that occupy the setting, Crewdson stages a fantastic garden, reminiscent of an Alice-in-Wonderland setting.

On the adjacent wall, Marc Quinn's "Italian landscape" series feature images of an aquarium-like atmosphere. In documenting a large scale installation of a 1997 garden comprised of flowers frozen in silicone and preserved in a refrigerated, enclosed environment, Quinn generates a sensational scene in which the color is intensely animated.

At the exhibition's crowded opening, on Thursday, Jan. 20, Tom Padon, the Deputy Director for Exhibitions and Programs of the American Federation of Arts, explained an inspiration for his second curatorial project. To renovate his quaint Berkshire house, Padon looked to landscaping as the means of re-inventing the standing structure. His creation of a garden compelled him to consider the subject and idea in a new perspective. It is with this mindset that Padon conceived his investigation into the beauty and rich metaphorical association of gardens.

Some highlights of the exhibition include Sally Apfelbaum's mural-sized prints of Claude Monet's garden in France, Linda Hackett's trippy color-pinhole photographs of Long Island gardens, panoramic shots of the Villa Medici gardens by Geoffrey James, and Len Jenshel's fine-point photographs of gardens in California and South Carolina.

A captivating series in the exhibition is the photographs of Sally Mann's study in Las Pozas in Mexico. Commissioned by the AFA, Mann explored Englishman Edward James' surrealist garden in the jungle of San Luis Potosí. The luscious and tropical paradise is detailed with tribal monuments, wooded structures and swimming holes. The fading and blurring of the black and white images enable Mann to evoke a feeling of a dreamlike playground.

Throughout history, gardens have inspired artists. In the recent centuries, artists, however, have diverged from capturing the natural and focused on creating commentaries on urbanization and the decline of untainted land. In the exhibition's catalogue, Professor Robert Harrison of Stanford University theorized, "We belong to a gardenless era. These who can afford them may keep up their own private gardens, but the garden as a place of insight, as an ideal of self-cultivation,

Ari Joseph

Alongside images of Monet's Giverny, photographs of gardens from Scotland, Japan and Indonesia adorn the walls.

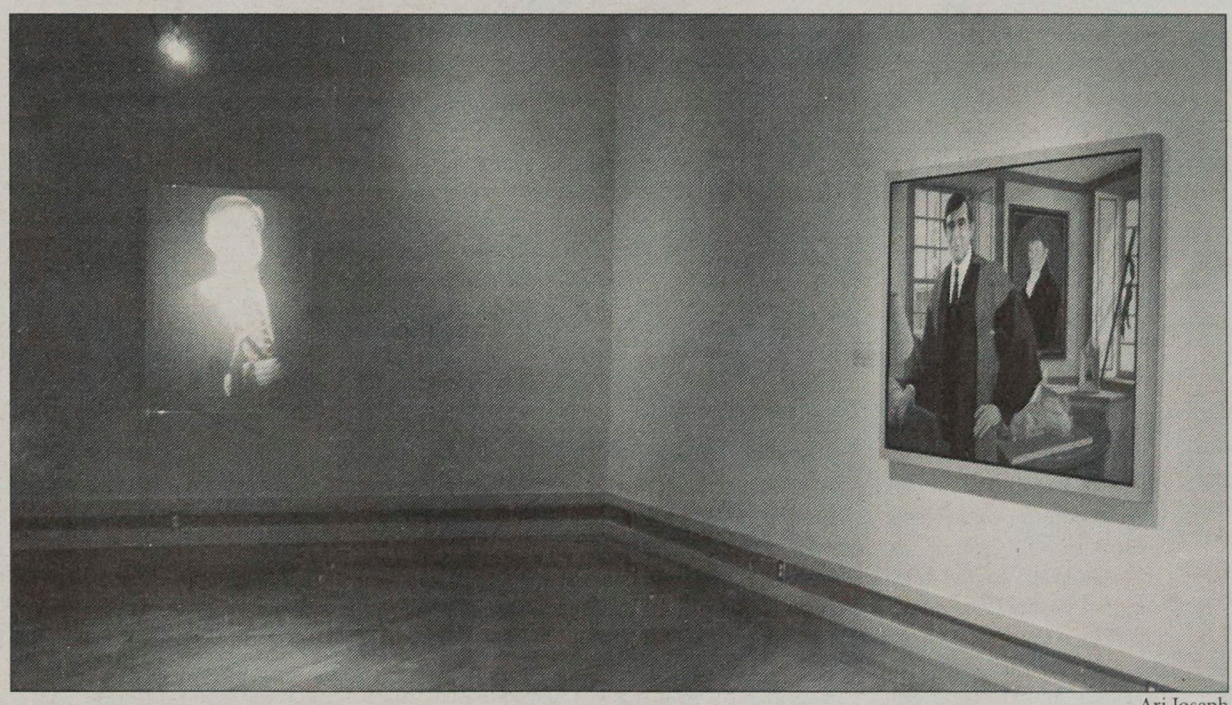
as a sanctuary from the excesses of history, or as a promise of happiness, no longer thrives in our midst." The garden itself is a dichotomy or rather a contradiction. It is a containment of nature — an issue that many of the photographers on display attempt to address.

The installation of Peter Fischili and David Weiss demonstrates an original treatment of the conception of gardens. Over the course of a year, the two artists photographed various gardens at different times of the year in Switzerland. Presented as superimposed slides, the overlap of photographs creates unexpected juxtapositions of scale, form, and color. Mesmirizing, the cinematic experience parallels the progression or cycle of nature.

The exhibition "Contemporary Photography and the Garden — Deceits and Fantasies" will be available for viewing until Sunday, April 17. The exhibition is made possible by a grant form the A.R. Brooks trusts and Founders Circle of the America Federation of Arts. At the College, the Christian A. Johnson Memorial Fund has provided support.The Middlebury installation marks the inauguration of the exhibition, which travel to five other venues in the United States. Among these are the Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, New York; The Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, South Carolina; and the Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, Washington.

The gorgeous images are emotionally charged and stimulating. Evoking ideas of nature, civilization, beauty, and passion, the two-dimensional explorations give vision into the realm of gardens. The refreshing photographs invite the viewer to take a step inside and get lost within the garden world, and for a few moments, escape from the sub-zero, Vermont climate.

PRESIDENTIAL PORTRAITS

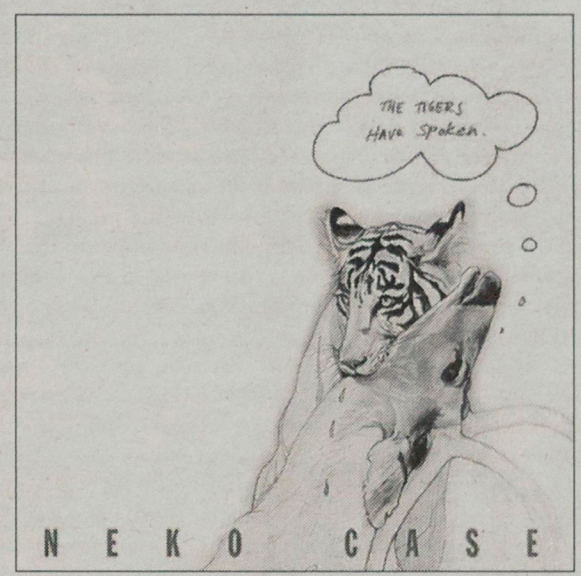


Ari Joseph

On display in the CFA Museum of Art until August, the presidential portrait collection has been recently augmented by the addition of a hologram and a traditional painting of President Emeritus John M. McCardell, Jr.

BLOWIN' INDIE WIND

BY RICHARD LAWLESS, ARTS EDITOR



ARTIST | NEKO CASE
ALBUM | THE TIGERS HAVE SPOKEN
RELEASE DATE | NOV 9, 2004

Album titles tend to be characteristic of their respective genre. Hip-hop albums revel in gnomic statements ("Da Game Is To Be Sold, Not To Be Told"); World albums are obsessed with bland, utopian euphemisms ("Surprise Dream"; "Rain Without Boundaries"); Jazz albums are victims of annoyingly smarmy, unclever word games ("Science Friction"), and rock albums are constantly trying to shatter convention and win a place in the hearts of critics forever with the perfect combination of solipsistic and nihilistic sentiment ("Nevermind," "Loveless," "Closer," "III"). Then there are just f**king awful album titles like "The Tigers Have Spoken." Neko Case has attributed the title to the apparently unfavorable condition of caged tigers at zoos across the world, but aside from featuring a song of the same name, this has nothing to do with her album, which is also succinctly pointless.

Before you throw up your arms and call me a Neko Case hater, or even worse, sexist, let me inform you that: 1) I love the ladies; and 2) I love Neko Case. Her previous album, "Blacklisted," is a brilliant piece of moody, country ballads, with haunting production that takes you right along with her onto the twilight back roads of Kentucky, the cool summer night's air running in between your fingers as you drive and ruminate on love and loss. But "The Tigers Have Spoken," a brief collection of live performances from several Canadian concerts from this pst Spring, is an unnecessary release that clearly is attempting to hold fans over until she gets around to recording another album, which is finally going to happen this year. I have immense problems with artists releasing hastily-packaged live albums such as this just to make money, especially when they sound notably similar live as they do on a studio recording. "The Tigers Have Spoken" plays like an eleven-song Neko Case sampler (albeit one with only six original compositions) with clapping in between the songs. Maybe you're into samplers, but I find them abominable.

Before you put bombs in my mailbox, like Clint Eastwood's dastardly arch-nemesis (and delightful Mark Twain impressionist) Lieutenant Briggs in "Magnum Force," I will concede that the music itself on "The Tigers Have Spoken" isn't bad. It's not like you're going to listen to this album and grow into an uncontrollable rage and throw it against the wall because you hate it. Neko Case is a good musician, and her voice is nothing short of spectacular. But this is just not an inspired release. The music is pleasant, but the concept of the album is utterly atrocious. "The Tigers Have Spoken" is an awkward jumbling of pre-recorded tracks that looks terrible compared to such a masterpiece like "Blacklisted," and it's clearly a blatant attempt to create some cashflow in the Case household.

Which, I admit, is understandable. This is her *job*. She needs to make money somehow. But last time I checked, "Blacklisted" was selling quite well, and was placed right alongside Led Zeppelin's "Houses of the Holy" and Iggy Pop's "Lust For Life" in the Essential Rock Album stand in Borders (which, I must say, surprised me). No, there really is no need for "The Tigers Have Spoken" to exist. As ridiculous as Guns N' Roses are, at least Axl Rose isn't pushing 35-minute live albums as he struggles to make the nonexistent "Chinese Democracy." And at least Trent Reznor had the decency (once upon a time) to release EPs of new material during the five-year span between Nine Inch Nails albums. Neko Case and Bloodshot Records have severely disappointed me here, and I encourage all of you to save $13.99 and wait until her new studio album comes out.

Seniors dance the night away at the CFA

By Alex Hay
Staff Writer

Julia Basso '04.5 and Kate Stamper '04.5 presented their collaborative senior work, "Transient Networks," Friday and Saturday nights in the CFA Dance Theatre, choreographing and performing in solos, duets and group pieces that aimed towards "integrating the themes of science, art, and the individual." Both Basso and Stamper are double Dance and Neuroscience majors. The theme of the performance stemmed from an interest in exploring the relationship between science and art, with a particular emphasis on the nervous system (the individual), -- a parallel theme to that explored by the Seeler Studio play presented this weekend, "Experiment with an Air Pump," which examined science, art and relationships.

Aside from the title of one work, "Apoptosis" (a genetically determined process of cell self-destruction that is marked by the fragmentation of nuclear DNA), space-age costuming which used panels of clear plastic to form skirts reminiscent of The Jetsons, or the bright white lighting and white costumes of the final dance which evoked a hospital or psychiatric ward, there was very little science evident in the performance. The dances themselves were characteristic of the modern dance produced at Middlebury's dance department, with the exception of a few delightful transgressions.

The opening dance, "Thrill Seekers," choreographed by Amy Chavasse, left one with that peculiarly post-modern feeling of confusion, where the brain seems locked in the question, "What am I watching?" To a twanging female country voice, Basso and Stamper ran into each other and fell down in repetitive frenzied confusion at complete odds with the music.

Three of the dances performed were repetitions from dances created for the fall dance concert., "Backlit Engagement," and "Apoptosis" were Stamper and Basso's group work developed over the fall semester. "Backlit," choreographed by Stamper, gave an impression of hectic urban life that continued the theme of frenzied running from the first dance. Basso's piece, "Apoptosis" had a dark, gothic feel that corresponded to its title of cell self-destruction. Basso's piece had especially good unison choreography, perhaps due to the relationship established between the dancers as they developed some of the choreography through improvisation workshops led by Basso.

Stamper performed two solos, one taken from the Fall Dance Concert and one new piece of choreography. "Take Me In," a delicate, intimate piece, proved capable of wrenching the heart with a gentle grip just as effectively at the second viewing as at the first. The music for the dance, a simple but powerful love song, "All I Want" by The Poozies, may be primarily responsible for that effect. The song seemed to fill the theatre, infusing the audience with soft melancholy, while Stamper's sharp, sudden motions set up a counterpoint to the music, perhaps illustrating the stabbing pain at the center of melancholy and longing. Stamper's new solo, "Temperature of 104°," was a complete contrast, as Stamper shimmied and shim-shammed to Ray Charles and Nat King Cole performing "Fever." Sexy and fun with more than a little swing dance inspiration, Stamper lacked only a black bowler hat to offset her bouncing red curls and little black dress.

Basso presented a new solo piece, "Lost and Found," that boasted more props than I've ever seen in a Dance Department production, including a carefully arranged chair, telephone, full-length mirror, piano bench, a stack of books, and a plastic baby doll. Upstage a vase was placed on a pedestal. Into this carefully constructed landscape – perhaps an attic of lost memories? – Basso staggered and fluttered in a tattered white dress, evoking a dream-like, hazy atmosphere somewhere between drunkenness and swooning. Although the props were left undisturbed for the most part, at one point Basso grabbed the vase off the pedestal, seeming to drop it as the downward momentum pulled her around the entire stage before finally settling to the ground, leaving Basso to crawl away from the encounter. The intertwining of dance and quotidian movements created an immediacy to the dance that held you gripped in the young woman's struggle.

The closing piece, "Two Sides of the Same Hat," fused the playful and serious elements of the concert in a beautiful and tender duet choreographed and performed by Basso and Stamper together. The two women seemed to escape to a separate, fragile world, dancing their delight in their surroundings and each other. But whenever the two drifted apart for too long, one would start to shake her hand uncontrollably, seeming to fall slowly into paranoia before the other came to her rescue, drawing her back into the peaceful unreality of their white-washed world. Or the other would sink deeper and deeper into despondency, sweeping the floor with limp fingers until the first pulled her back to joyful discovery. Perhaps the voice-overs of people speaking, discussing the senses and their role in human experience, added to the medical feel of the dance, as if the two were frolicking on the sunlit lawn of a psychiatric hospital.

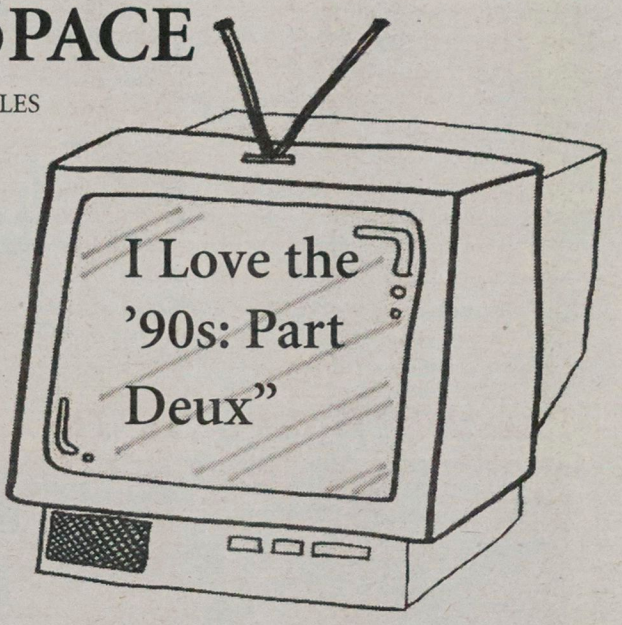
The entire performance lasted only an hour, but was filled with intriguing new choreography that spanned a large spectrum from post-modern dysfunction to vaudeville hilarity and the theatrical use of props. Hopefully this performance was just the beginning of a trend to incorporate a broader range of dance into the Dance Department's productions, and maybe even to shed the long-standing fear of actually saying something in a dance.

Sixiao Huo

Near-graduates Julia Basso '04.5 (left) and Kate Stamper '04.5 perform a series of collaborations that highlight each of their impressive array of talents.

Watch This Space

— BY SHEILA SELES



If you happened to pass by a TV in the last week you probably already know that VH1 has unleashed on the world *I Love the 90s: Part Deux.* The premise of the show is simple — there is one hour-long episode for each year in the decade. A bunch of comedians, actors and musicians talk about news and culture from each given year — the important stuff like Zima, Scary Spice and the fall of the Iron Curtain. This show has great television predecessors — *I Love the 90s: Part Deux* follows in the footsteps of *I Love the 90s, I Love the 80s* and *I Love the 70s.* On the surface we shouldn't love *I Love the 90s* — or any show of its kind. VH1's nostalgic romp through the pop culture past doesn't tell us anything we didn't already know. But that's why it's so great.

VH1 seems to have struck gold with its *I Love the...*series. Who knew the American people were so hungry for nostalgia of the recent past? (If you said The Frankfurt School you get a gold star, but the real answer is VH1.) It isn't really that surprising that people love *I Love the...* I can't tell you times I've broken the ice in an awkward situation by reminiscing about slap bracelets, Crystal Pepsi and that '90s classic *Saved by the Bell.* Walking into Urban Outfitters or Hot Topic is like taking a trip back to the playground complete with t-shirts depicting Care Bears, Rainbow Brite and Jem. This yearning for times past isn't in any way unique to our generation. When we were kids people in our parents' generation were shelling out thousands of dollars for Beatles paraphernalia and original Barbie dolls.

The commodification of memory is a huge business and no one seems to know that better than VH1. VH1 has built a mini-empire around remembering and they do it very well. My remote always stops on another VH1 show, *Best Week Ever.* This show is like a mini-*I Love the* that airs every week. *Best Week Ever's* premise should sound familiar. VH1 assembles a bunch of C-list celebrities to talk about events in news and pop culture from the past week.

Of course, these shows would not be so popular if they weren't as funny as they are. Some of VH1's C-list celebrities are comic geniuses who deserve to move at least to the B-list. Michael Ian Black has become a god in my house for his perfectly perverse deadpan humor. And he's one of the few people I'd heard of — *Wet Hot American Summer*, anyone?— before his stint on *I Love the 70s.* For my money, Rachael Harris and Hal Sparks are other standout comedians on the series and Flava Flav always has some deep insights into the American psyche.

Don't get me wrong, *I Love the 90s: Part Deux* isn't the type of show that keeps you rapt, hanging on every word. *I Love the 90s* isn't even the type of show that I plan on watching (but it's on about 50 times a day and in this mid-season TV lull, it's usually the best thing on). It's the kind of show that just shows up on your TV and won't leave. Not that you'd want it to.

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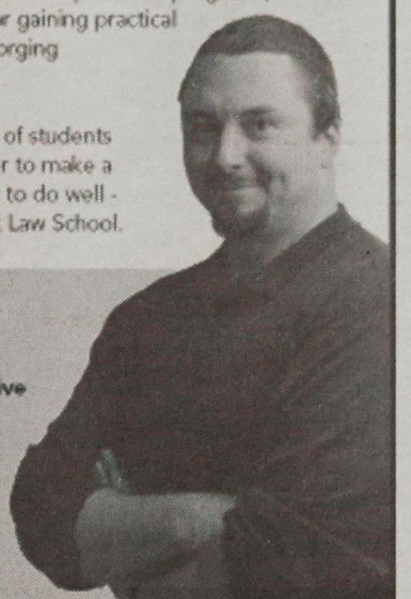

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Panthers suffer heartbreak in the water

Julia Randall

Despite the best efforts of Middlebury's male swimmers and divers, the team fell to Hamilton and Union last weekend. Just one point separated Midd from Union in a nailbiting match-up.

By Zamir Ahmed
Sports Editor

The Middlebury men's swimming and diving team suffered two tough losses on the road in the past two weeks. The losses dropped the Panthers to 3-3 on the season, who had won three straight meets after an opening meet loss to Springfield College.

On Jan. 15, the team traveled to Hamilton College to take on the Continentals. Although putting up a valiant effort, the Panthers were overmatched, falling 150-91. The team was led by Robert Collier '07 and first-year Peter Bell, who combined to win three events, the only ones won by the team.

Collier posted victories in the 200m individual medley with a time of 2:00.66 and in the 200m butterfly with a time of 2:00.13. Bell held off a late rally by Hamilton's Steve Morris to win the 200m breaststroke in a time of 2:15.20.

The team also had other notable performances at the meet, especially by the relay teams. The 400m medley relay team of Jason Korsmeyer '05, Tim Lux '07, Collier and David Hawkins '05 finished second in a time of 3:34.82. The 400m freestyle relay team of Hawkins, Kersmeyer, Robbie Burton '08 and Jake Pepper '08 came second in a time of 3:19.13. Other second-place finishes were Rob Hillas '06 in the 1,000m freestyle, Burton in the 200m freestyle and Michael Young '05 in 1m and 3m diving.

On Jan. 22, the Panthers were at Union College. The Panthers swam strong against the Dutchmen but ultimately suffered a heartbreaking loss, 149-148. The Panthers were again led by Collier and Bell, who both posted dual wins, as did Young on the diving board.

Collier took the 100m butterfly in a time of 53.71 and the 400m IM in 4:16.70, as well as finishing second in the 50y butterfly. Bell won the 50m breaststroke in 28:61 and the 100m breaststroke in 1:02.56 while Young added victories in the 1m and 3m diving events.

The Panthers also got a first-place finish from their 200m medley relay team of Evan Williams '08, Alex Demas '06, Chris Abbott '08 and Pepper. Korsmeyer and junior Jaime Lamere also helped the Panthers with two individual second-place finishes apiece. Korsmeyer came second in the 50m backstroke in 25.46 and second the 50m freestyle in 22.82. Lamere took second in the 200m freestyle in 1:49.30 and the 500m freestyle in 5:00.07.

With only three meets remaining before the postseason, the team is looking to get back on the winning track. The Panthers will have a chance to do just that on January 29 when they host Williams at home. The team then will take on Dartmouth at the Natatorium on February 2.

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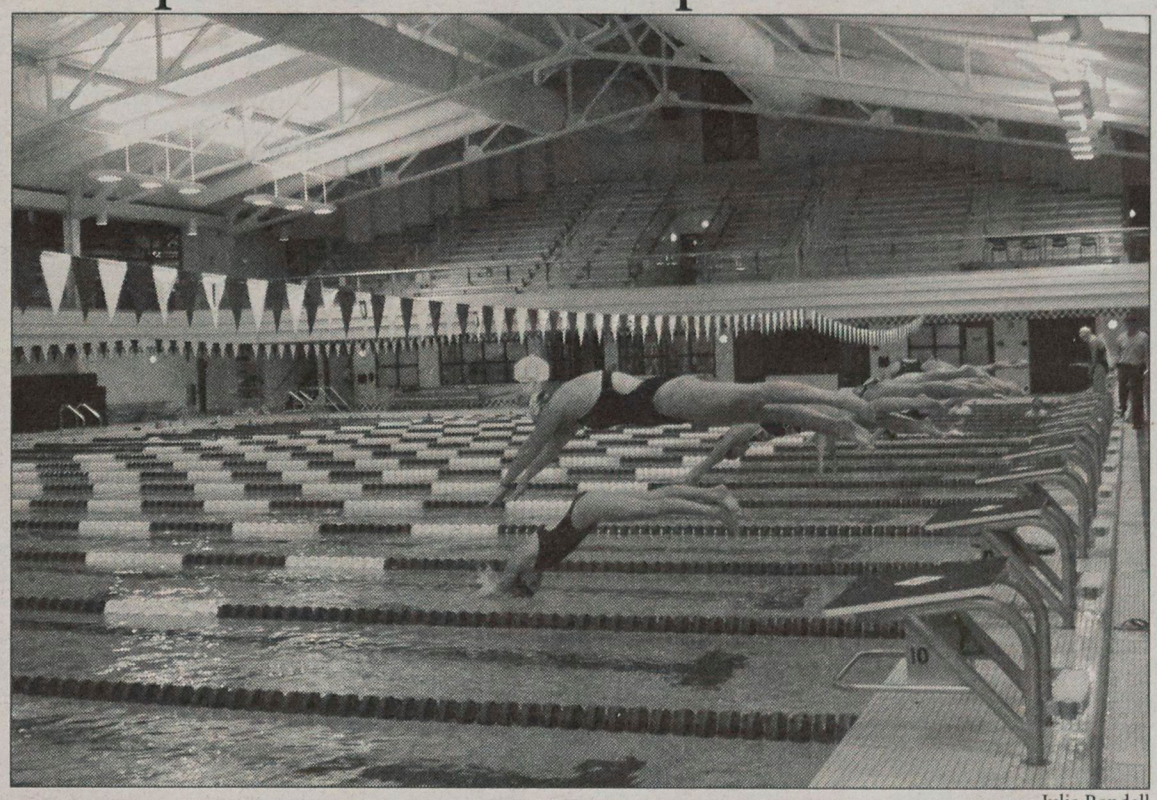
Women wash-over Hamilton and Union

Two more dominant performances in the pool take record to impressive 5-1

By Sarah Poling Luehrman
Staff Writer

After four straight victories in the last three weeks, the Middlebury women's swimming and diving team enters the second half of the season with an exceptional record of 5-1 and hopes for more success ahead. Though on the road for the last two weekends, the Panthers nonetheless defeated Hamilton 147-91 on Saturday, Jan. 15 and easily topped Union 204-95 the following Saturday, Jan. 22. "Typically," said Head Coach Peter Solomon, "the Union College meet comes at a time in our schedule when the swimmers are looking to compete in some other events and add a bit of variety to their racing routine." The meet at Union was indeed the last away meet before the MIT Invitational in February, just before the NESCAC Championships.

Individual performances in both swimming and diving continue to exceed expectations and break records. At Hamilton, Sara Cowie '08 won both the 200m free and the 500m free and set a pool record with a time of 10:36.61 in the 1,000m free. The following weekend at Union, Cowie delivered another victory in the 1,650m free. The latter was a particularly exciting event for Cowie and for the entire team; her time of 17:36.59 is a NCAA "B" standard, and ranks her eighth in NCAA Division III. Solomon described her performance as a highlight of the Union meet.



Julia Randall

Competitors dive in to stiff competition during weekend action, picking up dual wins against NESCAC rivals.

Other swimmers contributed remarkable individual victories to the team as well. Marika Ross '08 picked up a pair of wins at each meet, dominating the 200m IM and 200m fly at Hamilton and the 200m free and 50m fly at Union. Not only did she take home as many individual victories between Hamilton and Union as any other swimmer, but she also contributed her speed to two winning relay teams. The Panthers won the 200 medley relay at Union with Ross, Pam Chatikavanij '08, Becca Reingold '07 and Katie Chambers '08, and the 400m free relay at Hamilton with Ross, Chatikavanij, Liz Rice '07 and Barbara Van der Veer '07. Van der Veer swam to victory individually as well, with two key wins at Hamilton in the 50m free and the 100m free. Reingold and Chatikavanij each picked up an individual win at Union in addition to their relays, Reingold in the 50m back and Chatikavanij in the 100m free. McKenna Moreau '06 also contributed multiple victories to Middlebury's score in the 200m back at Hamilton and the 200m free and 100m back at Union. Other winning swimmers at Union were Emily Molitor '08 in the 100m fly, Anna Flores '08 in the 100m breast and Katie Chambers '08 in the 400m IM.

At the other end of the pool, Tessa Truex '05 continues to control the diving board. In this, "her best season ever," according to Solomon, she has already made the NCAA cut many times over. Truex won both the 1 meter diving and the 3 meter diving events at Hamilton and at Union. "It is amazing to know where she started as a freshman," said Solomon, "and to see her progress over the years to be one of the best NESCAC and NCAA women divers."

This weekend, the Panthers will face Williams, the winner of four consecutive NESCAC Championships, in the Middlebury Natatorium and Dartmouth the following weekend. The season now begins to wind down and the swimmers begin to taper and rest for the impending championships, hosted by Middlebury this year for the first time.

In 2003 the Panthers finished third in NESCAC behind runner-up Amherst and winner Williams. Last year they came in second, topping Amherst and coming ever closer to the Ephs. They hope to improve their performance even more in 2005 and will give Williams a tough meet this weekend. "In addition to these national standards being achieved, it is good to see both teams making the incrimental drops in time each weekend," said Solomon. "Our team is shaping up nicely for a great championship season where we will try to peak each of the swimmers and divers to do their personal best."

Men's hockey snap three game losing streak

Midd drops three in a row for first time since '99-'00, then rallies in next two

By Jason Lockhart
Staff Writer

The men's ice hockey team hit the biggest bump of not only their season, but of this century. After disappointing losses in Maine at Bowdoin and Colby by the scores of 4-2 and 2-1 respectively, the team proceeded to lose on home ice for the first time in over a year to Williams 6-3.

The Panthers lost at Chip Kenyon '85 arena to the Ephs for the first time in their history, and dropped their first game to them since the 1993-1994 season. Middlebury also had not lost three games in a row since 1999.

"We didn't play with the determination that we are used to seeing out of ourselves, it didn't seem that we could get any of that emotional play started," stated Alternate Captain Levi Doria '05. The team was at a low point, dropping to fifth in the national ranking, and needed a shot in the arm in order to keep pace with the other NESCAC schools that had pulled ahead of them in the standings. That spark came in the form of Ross Cherry '08 who debuted in net against a potent St. Anselm team on Friday.

Cherry was just what the doctor ordered allowing only one goal on 27 shots as the Panthers escaped with a 3-1 win backed by two Mickey Gilchrist '08 goals. The Panthers trailed by one after the first, but scored just 14 seconds into the second frame as captain Brian Phinney '05 ripped a slap shot for his third goal of the season.

Just over seven minutes later the Panthers took the lead for good as Gilchrist found the back of net for his seventh of the season. Gilchrist finished off the scoring on the backhand with five minutes remaining in the third off a nifty feed from Justin Gaines '08

Julia Randall

Assistant captain Patrick Nugent '04 takes the face-off and avoids the opposition on the Kenyon ice during a tough weekend for the national champoins.

"We came out knowing we had to do what it would take to win, not only because of NESCAC standings and pride, but because we were sick of losing and knew we had to turn it around this weekend," said Jeff Smith '06. Cherry followed up his first career victory with another solid performance against New England College. The Panthers needed a late third period goal from Richie Fuld '07 to seal the game 4-3.

Fuld picked up a loose puck on the side of the net and fired it home after Jed McDonald '08 attempted a wrap-around with 1:53 left in the third period.

"We are basically playing playoff type hockey for the rest of the way, we have little margin for error now," admitted Doria.

Midd skiers hit the slopes flying in Maine

Carnival season gets started with a solid third place finish at Bates

By Kellen Florio
Staff Writer

After three months of on-snow preparation the Middlebury alpine and nordic ski teams finally kicked off their carnival season with a respectable third place finish at the Bates Carnival, held on Jan. 21 and 22. Tallying a total of 718 points, the UVM Catamounts claimed their first carnival since the 2003 season, edging out Dartmouth by 33 points and Middlebury by 76.

Leading the men's alpine squad in Friday's Giant Slalom at Sunday River was junior Dave Coriell in fifth place with a time of 1:57.07, 1.6 seconds off the pace set by Dartmouth first-year Evan Weiss. Weiss was joined on the podium by fellow Dartmouth classmate David Chodounsky in second and UVM first-year Greg Hardy in third. John Rusten '05 turned in a 10th place finish for Middlebury, followed by Joey Swenson '08 in 15th, Peter Phillips '05 in 16th and Alex Tarberry '08 in 17th. First-year Clayton Reed nailed his first run to move into fourth place, but had trouble and skied out in the afternoon run.

The men's total of 73 points from the Giant Slalom landed them in fourth place behind Dartmouth, UVM and UNH. Commenting on their sub-par performance senior co-captain Peter Phillips noted, "We had some trouble adapting to the unusually straight and open courses. There was hardly any margin for error, so one minor error could lose the race."

Head alpine coach Forest Carey added, "Because of the easy course sets, more guys were in the mix than usual, making it even more competitive."

Sophomore Lindsay Brush paced the women's side in the Grand Slalom with a sixth place finish in 2:03.25, 1.7 seconds behind UVM's Jamie Kingsbury. Making her collegiate debut, Middlebury first-year Krissie Poehling '08 took seventh place in 2:03.37 after posting the third fastest second run time. Tara Martin '07 followed Poehling with a 15th place finish, while co-captain Jess Smith '04.5, Dorothy Muirhead '08 and Anna Furney '08 finished in 17th, 18th and 21st, respectably.

The men avenged their fourth place Giant Slalom performance with an excellent showing in the Slalom on Saturday where they finished on the heels of Dartmouth in second. Rusten and Reed turned in stellar efforts for the Panthers, finishing in a tie for second place with a time of 1:49.41, once again behind Dartmouth's Weiss.

In second place after the first run, the pressure was Rusten to deliver a solid second run, starting 29th on an extremely challenging course set by Coach Carey.

"[Coach Carey] knew that we would be able to separate ourselves if the course was technical, so all of us knew it would be tough going into inspection," commented Rusten. "The rumors were flying at the top of the course that no one was making it. The key is to be able to take it with a grain of salt and trust what you saw during inspection."

After listening to course reports from Carey and Assistant Coach Jon Schaefer, the men skied with confidence and produced excellent second run results. In addition to Reed and Rusten in second place, Coriell claimed sixth and Phillips vaulted seven places to finish in 17th.

"My run was just a fight. I nailed the top section and came to the difficult part and battled through it," Rusten recounted, "It was neither pretty nor did it feel good, but that's the battle you have to fight to make it down sometimes."

UVM continued their traditional dominance in the women's alpine events by taking three out of the top four places in Saturday's Slalom. Smith led the Panthers in seventh place with a combined time of 1:38.12, 3.2 seconds behind UVM's Amy Cochran. Brush finished two-tenths of a second behind Smith in ninth place, while Martin turned in a solid 11th place finish. Poehling and Muirhead finished the day in 19th and 22nd, respectably. First-year Megan Hughes '08, who is expected to make a big impact on the carnival circuit this winter was competing at the World University Games in Innsbruck, Austria, and will return to action with the Panthers at the next carnival.

Overall, the alpine squad was disappointed with their results, but still encouraged by some performances. "Given our record breaking results from last season, we clearly had high expectations coming into this weekend," commented co-captain Phillips. "Despite some strong individual results, the team as a whole didn't perform as well as we know we can."

Carey added, "It's a new year and we have a different look than we did a year ago. There were some flashes of brilliance this weekend, and some other things we need to work on. Last year we caught a lot of breaks and this time we were not so fortunate, but it all evens out in the end."

"It was great to see Clayton, Joey and Krissie perform so well in their first carnival," continued Carey.Combining their young talent with our established core of veterans should give us some solid results as look build on this weekend."

The men's and women's nordic teams took on the fast, icy trails of Black Mountain of Maine for their segment of the Bates Carnival last weekend.

Due to frigid temperatures on Friday, the men's 15km freestyle and women's 10km freestyle were pushed back a day and the classical relays slated for Saturday were cancelled.

UVM dominated both the men's and women's races placing five skiers in the top six in the men's race, and three in the top four in the women's event. Middlebury junior Garrott Kuzzy thwarted Vermont's bid to sweep the top five spots by racing to a fifth place finish in 37:59.4, just over one minute behind winner Ethan Foster of UVM.

Junior co-captain Jake Whitcomb also scored for the Panther with a solid 13th place finish in 39:48.8, followed by Jimmy Ades '08 in 15th, Matt Johnson '08 in 28th, Dan Skold '07 in 37th and Wes Hines '08 in 38th. The men's strong effort resulted in a second place finish overall behind the deep Vermont squad.

Kuzzy congratulated the UVM men for a strong race and added, "It's still early in the season, however, and we're training to ski fastest at the Middlebury Carnival (Eastern Championships) and NCAAs at Stowe in early March. They should enjoy their victory, but realize that Middlebury is coming back stronger and tougher than ever."

Battling sickness, Panther nordic women struggled to live up to the reputation they have established over the past several years, finishing seventh out of the 10 competing schools. Jenny Jorvig '06 led the Middlebury women in the 10km freestyle in 14th place with a time of 32:11.3, just under two minutes behind UVM's Kate Crawford who topped the podium with a time of 30:17.9. Newcomer Erin Pittenger '07 was the next Middlebury finisher in 23rd, followed by Taylor Leach '06 in 24th and Evelyn Dong '07 in 33rd.

Despite falling short of his expectations, Whitcomb was encouraged by the performances of the rookies and is optimistic about next week's potential. "Our five newcomers, Ades, Johnson, Hines, Pittenger and Joy Erdman '08 have proved to be invaluable additions to the team this year. We came away with some strong finishes as a team even though we were missing Claire Anderson '06, Erdman, Beau Baldock '07 and Tom Wisdom '05. Barring sickness, we're ready to up the ante this weekend at the St. Michael's Carnival."

Dodgeball fever strikes intramural scene

By Matthew Kunzweiler
Staff Writer

For some, its creation has presented yet another opportunity for intramural glory. For a select few, it has been an excuse to break out mid-thigh region P.E. shorts, and for others, a chance to reenact that empowering scene from "Billy Madison." Regardless of the calling, gym class all-stars from across campus have been crowding Nelson Recreation Center every Tuesday and Thursday night of Winter Term for Middlebury's first ever season of IM dodgeball.

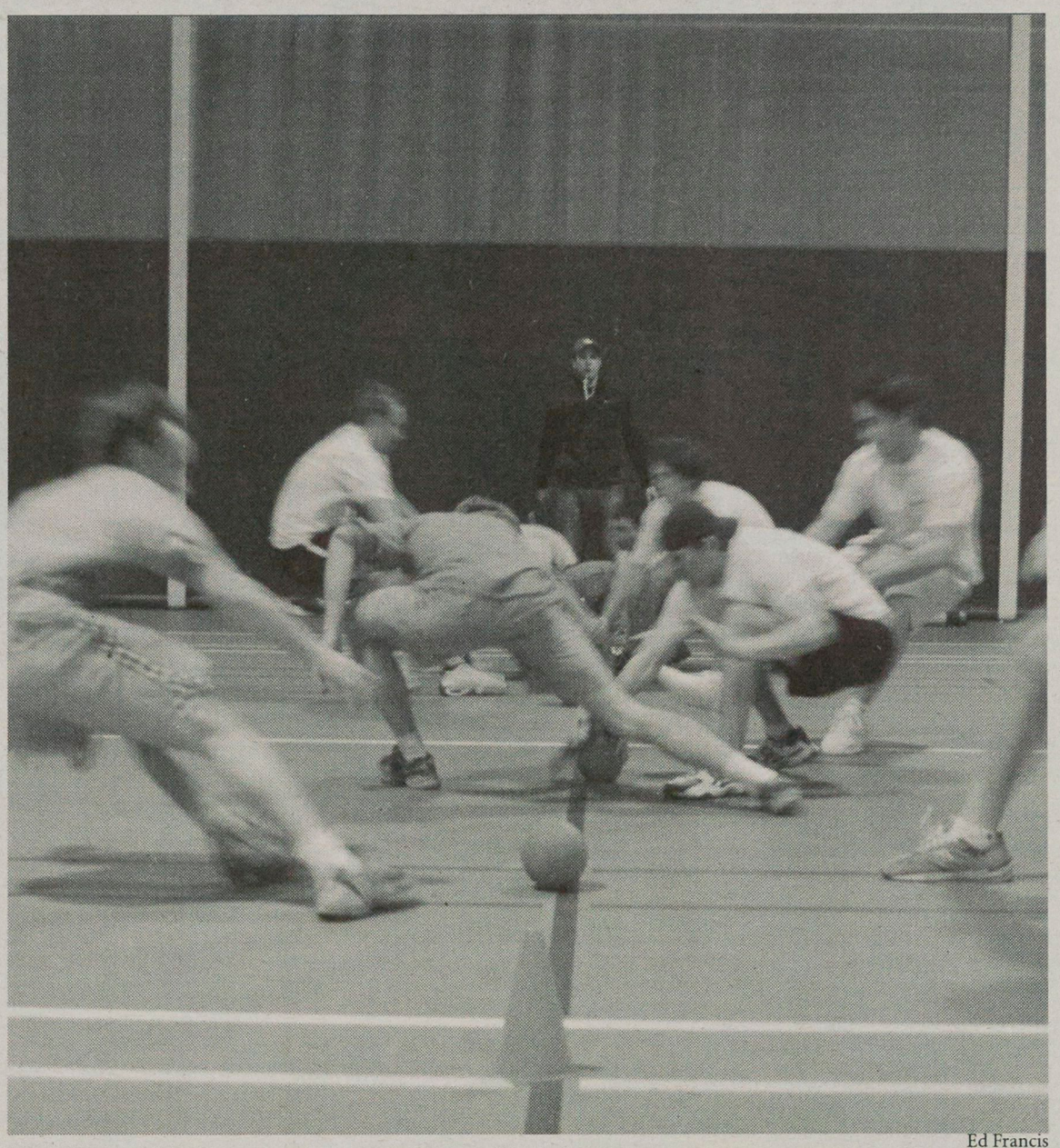
And the response has been overwhelming. With the men's and co-ed leagues each consisting of over 16 teams, dodgeball has enlisted almost 300 students, making it one of Middlebury's most successful IM sports.

Requiring only a basic knowledge of throwing, catching, blocking and moving, it is no wonder the game has been so popular among both liberal arts students and elementary school children. Of course, most participants have grown significantly since the fourth grade, and the inflatable gym balls are now traveling at cartoonish speeds. Even walking behind a dodgeball court in Nelson can prove hazardous as missed throws occasionally pick off oblivious bystanders. But no significant injuries to players or spectators have been reported thus far — though some go-getters have complained of post game arm soreness.

Co-Commissioner Andrew Pavoni '06 helped set up the co-ed and men's leagues after his initial talk of intramural dodgeball elicited a massive student response. Many players have attributed their revived interest in the sport to Ben Stiller's summer movie, "Dodgeball," which reminded audiences that pegging wide-eyed opponents with inflatable rubber balls never ceases to be funny.

Similar to the movie, teams in the Middlebury IM leagues have no shortage of unique style. Team names range from "Morons" to "Yes Please" to "Pipsqueak and the Honor Students," and the ranks are filled with athletes just as diverse and goofy as the team names. The old intramural spirit is undeniably present. The chants, the lack of practice, the team shirts and the maybe-serious-maybe-not trash talking. And at the end of the night, you'll find a few teams battling it out for the seventh or eighth time because a best of three series sometimes just isn't enough.

The Winter Term season was designed as a trial run, but with the obvious success, Middlebury will be seeing more dodgeball in the future. Pavoni and most of the league referees have varsity sport commitments during the fall and spring, so he is not sure when IM dodgeball will make its next appearance. But if enough student organizers step in where Pavoni and his crew left off, the campus might not have to wait until next Winter Term to see another season of dodgeball action.



Ed Francis

Intrepid Middlebury funlovers trek to Kenyon in the snow and wind to join intramural's latest fad: dodgeball.

Track stars keep stride

By Zamir Ahmed
Sports Editor

The Middlebury men's and women's indoor track teams recently completed a busy week, competing in three separate meets throughout the region. The team performed well in each meet, gaining valuable experience for the rest of the year and getting the opportunity to size themselves up against the rest of their NESCAC competition.

The team first traveled to Wesleyan College on Jan. 15 to participate in the Wesleyan Invitational. Against tough competition, Neiman Groce '07 won the men's only individual victory, clinching the long jump title with a jump of 20 feet- 4 1/4 inches. Kevin Bright '06, an All-American in outdoor track, also had a good meet for the Panthers. Bright finished fourth in the 200m with a time of 23.54 seconds and second in the 400m, just beating out first-year teammate Patrick Swan by .02 seconds.

For the women's squad, Sarah Berkowitz '05 won the pole vault, clearing a height of 9 feet- 6 inches. The relay teams also added impressive victories for the Panthers. The 4x200m team of Berkowitz, Erin Oliver '07, Elysian McNiff '08 and Lizz Huntley '08 won the event with a time of 1:53.78. The 4x400m team of Melissa Thacker '05, Alice Flanders '07, Jessie Evangelista '08 and Heather Bessette '08 won also their event with a time of 4:19.80.

Since there was no team scoring at the meet, the Panthers used the opportunity to prepare themselves for future meets. Said co-captain Thacker, "We used this meet to provide a foundation for the spring season and to stay in shape for the year."

On Jan. 19 the teams traveled to Burlington to compete against the University of Vermont and St. Michael's College. The men's team, competing without their distance runners, fell short against the Catamounts, losing 69-50. The women's squad performed admirably but was alsoovermatched by a strong UVM team 97-30.

For the women, Huntley had the Panthers' only victory, claiming first in the long jump with a mark of 15 feet- 7 3/4 inches. Another bright spot for the women was a second-place finish in the pentathlon by first-year Meredith Downing, who led in the event for most of the meet. Said Coach Martin Beatty of Downing, "It was an impressive performance, especially for a freshman because of the different techniques one has to master."

On the men's side, Steve Atkinson '06 had a dual victory, taking first in the shot put and weight throw. Groce again added a win in the long jump for the Panthers, this time with a leap of 20 feet- 1 1/2 inches. Other winners for the men were Greg Lazerus '06 in the 55m, Bright in the 200m and Alex Wellman '07 in the 55m hurdles.

On Jan. 22 the teams traveled to St. Lawrence University to compete in the Saints Indoor Classic. Both the women's and men's teams finished fourth against some of the top teams in the region. Said Beatty, "I was really pleased by our performance. We did well to finish in the middle of those seven teams, considering their size and talent."

Two school-record performances highlighted the Panthers' meet on Saturday. Nick Digani '05 provided a spark-plug for the team for the rest of the meet, taking the 1500m in a school-record time of 4:04.84.

Digani was also a member of the school-record breaking 4x400m relay team, along with Bright, Matthew Malek '06 and Swan. The team won the event in a time of 3:25.04, eight seconds faster than the second-place team.

The women were led once again by Huntley, who finished second in the 55m and third in the 200m. Alli Williams '05 finished third in the 500m while Bessette finished fourth in the long jump. The 4x200m team of Huntley, Berkowitz, Oliver and Evangelista also took second in a time of 1:52.03.

The team has the next week off, with their next meet coming on Feb. 5 at the Dartmouth Invitational.

Hard court woes continue

Julia Randall

Bobby Marcoux '07 catches the ball in the paint during conference play against Tufts last weekend

By Eri Nosaka
Staff Writer

The Middlebury men's basketball team started their NESCAC play with a win against Connecticut College, but unfortunately lost to three NESCAC teams afterwards making their NESCAC record 1-3. All of the losses can be characterized as close but not detrimental to the team spirit or mentality.

On Jan. 14h at Connecticut College, the Panthers won against the Camels with a score of 57-54. Middlebury throughout the game displayed strong defense and offense as they led 28-25 at the half.

The next day after leading at the half, the team lost their momentum and fell to Wesleyan with a close score of 79-74.

However, at Bates the Panthers were never quite able to regain the 46-28 lead that the Bobcats had at the break and lost to Bates with a score of 86-66.

With the recent loss at Bates kept in mind, the Panthers went on to play one of the most interesting and close games of the season. Despite a solid group of student support in the Pepin gym, Middlebury lost to Tufts, 91-82 in overtime. The nerve-wracking game closely resembled a ping-pong match as the Panthers and the Jumbos took turns in leading throughout the two halves. The Panthers ultimately were defeated, and the Jumbos are still undefeated. The close game indicates a hopeful future for the Middlebury men's basketball team.

Over the past four NESCAC games Bobby Marcoux '07 and Adam Sinoway '05 have consistently led and have netted 59 and 50 points, respectively. Wilbur Hyatt '07 and Sam Daly '06 off the bench have provided the team with strong hustle plays and good rebounds. With positive leadership from Captains Simon Behan '05 and Sinoway the teams although facing close but unsuccessful games, despite being disappointed, have been able to look forward to their oncoming NESCAC games.

"Everyone we play is a solid team and our focus for each game is to play tough defense and to execute good defense. Our team has been playing well in spurts and now the challenge is to play 40 minutes of good basketball," said Sinoway when asked about how the team hopes to improve and strengthen their game.

While most of the school is away for the week-long termbreak, the men's basketball team will face the bulk of their NESCAC competitors including Williams College, Trinity College and Amherst College.

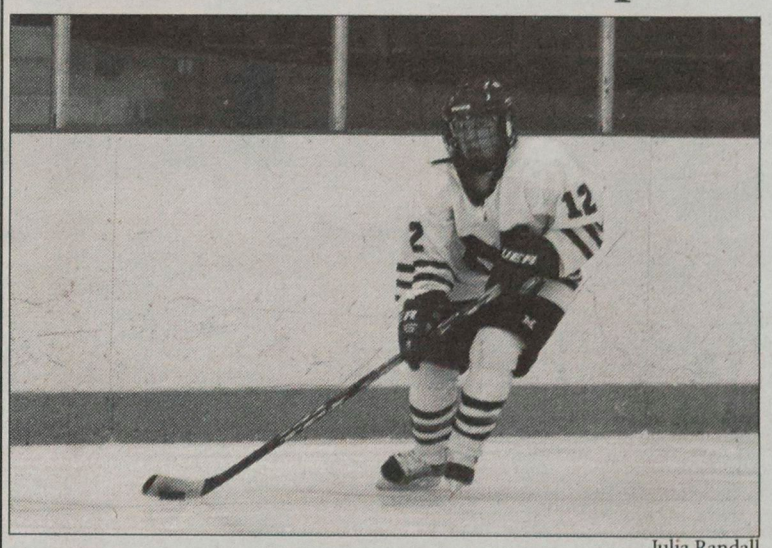
SPORTSBRIEFS

BY RYAN REESE, SPORTS EDITOR

Hughes '08 skies for US

Megan Hughes, a Middlebury College first-year, represented the United States in the World University Games in Innsbruck, Austria this past week. After her dominating run on Thursday, Hughes sat in fourth position and looked poised to snag a medal. Skiers from Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, and Lucie Hrstkova of the Czech Republic, who also won the Super G, held on to the top three spots. In the end, Hughes was the top United States finisher and was to compete in the slalom as well. The native Vermonter from Killington and other skiers commented on the tough mid-section of the race. The bumpy and iced-over run definitely took its toll on the competition and left many a skier looking up at the elite. There was no doubt that the course was challenging and also doubtless is the fact that Hughes was up to the challenge.

Quizon '06 strikes 100th point



Julia Randall

Emily Quizon '06 has reached an incredible milestone on the women's hockey team. During the second game against Hamilton, Quizon ripped a ridiculous slap shot from just inside the blue line that found its way into the back of the net. This unsuspected strike marked her hundredth point as a Panther. The Junior forward from Chino Hills, California ripped her way to this record quickly. Her smooth skating and amazing speed has allowed her to humble defenders from all over the country. Her knife-like cuts, vision of the game, and uncanny ability to be in the right place at the right time give this 4' 11" fireball an inconceivable ice presence. The last Panther to accomplish this feat was Lorna Giffis '05. Giffis accumulated 100 points during her senior year. We can only speculate what mind blowing tally Quizon's career mark will end upon. The human highlight reel will continue to please the crowds and net some goals. Congratulations to Emily Quizon and keep 'em coming.

Broomball heats up the ice

Ari Joseph

Since the temperatures dropped and left most of us sitting inside wanting chicken noodle soup, the broomball courts have been poured and games have begun. The games are being played in at breakneck speed with most teams on-court almost every day. With a phenomenal turnout of more than 40 teams in the league, an immediate double-elimination tournament has been set up. With teams excelling, struggling to stay afloat and others just dropping like flies, the season will come to an end quickly. There is no doubt that experience and seniority are keys to success in this brutal sport. There is much to be said about younger teams earning their stripes — however, expect upperclassmen to dominate the later rounds of the tournament. With bruised knees, bruised egos and bruised... well everything really, broomball continues to be a source of pride, embarrassment and everything between.

SKIING| KICK OFF CARNIVAL SEASON WITH THIRD PLACE FINISH| 22

WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING | IMPROVE RECORD TO 5-1| 21

GAMES TO WATCH

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
VS. KEENE STATE
JAN. 27 | 7 P.M. | PEPIN
MEN'S HOCKEY
VS. BABSON
JAN. 28 | 7 P.M. | KENYON

campus sports

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2005

Panthers stay unbeaten — top NESCAC poll

Women skate past Hamilton twice while earning a tie against Williams

By Anna Christina-Furney
Staff Writer

Panther hockey shows no weakness when it comes to its female force. While the women's hockey team has begun the most challenging portion of their season, the players do not appear hesitant when it comes to their opposition. With a 13-0-1 record, and riding the first place position in the NCAA Division III standings, the Panthers are ready to bring their strong team dynamic into the next few weeks. After showing their domination on the ice against the women of Hamilton College, the team prepared for the harder of their season's games against opponent, Williams. After two wins against Hamilton on January 14 and 15, the team managed to tie the Williams purple-cows in a 1-1 score on Jan. 18.

The team's captain, Jackie Cohen '05 reflected on the games against Hamilton by saying that the second of the two was more successful in terms of the team's ability to handle both the ice and their opponent. After the first Hamilton game, which they handily won with an 9-2 score, the Panthers felt as if their next game against the same team would be an opportune time to connect on the ice. Cohen says that it was better passing and more of an eagerness to win that sparked the 8-1 defeat of the Hamilton team. The two game sweep was highlighted when the national Division III polls indicated that Middlebury was ranked number one.

With this boost of confidence, the women prepared for a greater challenge in the Williams team. It was a tough day for Middlebury. Only after the first and second periods did the team grit their teeth and go for the win. The unfortunate portion of the match came when two of the Panther goals were called off. At the end of the game, the women were forced to be contented with a 1-1 tie. While it hardly hurt their untarnished record, Cohen remarked that "they should have won."

Julia Randall

Ellen Sargent '07 battles for the puck against a Hamilton skater during NESCAC play. The Panthers earned two conference wins recently.

After speaking with Cohen, it became clear that the team we see on the ice is a network of hardworking friends. Cohen says, "As a whole, our team has the same mind set as other seasons, but different players" they are closer than years past and, as a result, read each other better when on the ice. "As opposed to throwing their sticks on the ice" and just playing for the sake of playing, these past games against Hamilton revealed to Cohen the effectiveness of the team's mentality. They are more successful as a group when they aren't playing "nervous hockey." Cohen says that they cannot approach games protecting themselves from a loss, but instead, need to play to win. But if the women's season has been any indication of the games to come, they should have no problem finding the back of the net.

Now that the team's season is in full swing, they look forward to the challenge in opponents such as Plattsburgh, Colby and Bowdoin.

While the team's next match-up is in New York State, against Plattsburgh, be ready to bring your MIDD cheer to the hockey rink on Feb. 8 when the women play Plattsburgh at home. Keep an eye out for strong play from #11 Shannon Sylvester '07, #4 Emily McNamara '07, #12 Emily Quizon '06, #21 Alison Graddock '07, #26 Lorna Gifis '05, #3 Shannon Tarrant '07 and #9 and senior Allison Liati.

Ladies' hoops slip to .500 after tough week

By Heather Wright
Staff Writer

The Middlebury College Women's basketball team had their first opening games for their NESCAC schedule on Jan. 14 and 15th. The Panthers came out strong on Friday evening as they defeated Connecticut College, 65-50. Middlebury lost on Saturday against a strong Wesleyan University team, 75-54.

Coming into the game against Connecticut College, Middlebury knew "this was a huge game for us because we wanted to start out league play on a winning note," said Captain Elyse Carlson '05. The Panthers came out flat in the first half and shot the ball poorly.

This led to Connecticut College holding the lead for the entire first half. Middlebury went into halftime down by two points, 25-23, but managed to come out strong in the second half. The Panthers managed to do this by picking up their defensive intensity and finished their shots.

Julia Randall

Maryanne Verzosa '06 leads the Panther attack against a Connecticut College defender.

"This win was a solid team effort with everyone contributing in some way," said Carlson. Middlebury continued to play strong throughout the second half and gave Connecticut College no chance, eventually beating them by 15 points, 65-50.

The Panthers faced a determined Wesleyan University team that had come up to Middlebury on Saturday, Jan. 15 after a big upset the night before at Williams. Middlebury lost decisively 75-54 as none of their shots seemed able to find the basket. Wesleyan outscored Middlebury 17-4 from the foul line and hit six of eight three-pointers throughout the game.

One of Wesleyan's players, Sue Frost, hit five three's before halftime, giving Wesleyan a 42-26 lead at intermission. The Panthers were able to cut the lead to 13, but were unable to do more than this. Carlson led Middlebury with 12 points and Katie Fehsenfeld '06 scored 10.

"It was a physical and aggressive game, and unfortunately for us they had a height advantage and shot the ball really well," said Carlson.

Middlebury traveled to Union on Tuesday, the 18th and fell 62-54. Union came out strong and the Panthers were never able to catch up. Middlebury then traveled to Bates and Tufts this past weekend. They lost to a good Bates team 75-50 on Friday the 21st and traveled to Tufts on Saturday where they were more successful. The win at Tufts moved them to 2-2 in NESCAC play as they solidly defeated the Jumbos 68-59.

Women's Basketball

Friday, January 14

Middlebury	65
Conn. College	50

Saturday, January 15

Middlebury	54
Wesleyan	75

Carlson said, "From here on out we play really good teams, so we know we have our work cut out for us. But we practice hard and play determined, so I know that we are ready for the challenge."

This challenge has been escalated as two starting players, captain Lacey Hebert '06 and Katie Fehsenfeld '06 both are out for the remainder of the season with torn ACL's. It is now more important than ever that the bench steps up. They have proven they are capable of doing just that with their win over Tufts.

Middlebury's next home game is on Thursday night. when the Panthers host Keene State at 7 p.m.